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MISCELLANEOUS.

—65—

English Papers.

Public Establishments.—Our public establishments, whatever may be their defects, have at least the merit of consistency. An impartial person, who has followed Mr. Hume in his laborious and most useful investigations, must, we think, admit, that the extravagance of which the country complains is not an accidental blemish found in some obscure or neglected corners, but a radical vice, tainting, more or less, every part of the system. Not that every salary in our public establishments is too large; but in all the great departments there are many offices which are overpaid, many others which could easily be dispensed with, and not a few whose utility can only be discovered by the help of the new maxim, that useless offices are the most serviceable. Inordinate as our taxation is, the gains of our civil and fiscal officers have fully kept pace with its increase. Every where we find their allowances cast upon a scale which has no parallel in the paths of private industry. The public burdens, which have forced habits of painful economy upon the other classes, have in general added greatly to the comforts of the placeholders; and so numerous are the persons who enjoy this advantage, that their ease and affluence make up no inconsiderable item in the estimation of national prosperity. Looking to the circumstances of these persons, Ministers may say, with much truth, that no small part of what they call the flourishing condition of the country is their own work. Had an irresponsible committee of tax-collectors possessed the power of fixing their own salaries and those of their associates, we do not think the situation of public officers could have been much better than it is.

Among the abuses brought to light during the last eight days, there are none more flagrant than those regarding the pay of ambassadors. In 1791 we had twenty-two ambassadors and envoys at foreign courts, whose salaries amounted to £75,000 per annum. Last year we had twenty, whose salaries amounted to £133,000. The highest allowance at the former period was £8330, and there were but three persons who received this sum. At present there are five persons who receive from £11,000 to £12,300. On an average, the salaries have increased one hundred per cent. and yet the only circumstances which could justify such an increase are admitted not to exist. The duties have neither become more difficult, nor has the expense of living on the Continent sensibly increased. In time of peace, the situation is in most cases a sinecure; and accordingly Lord Burghersh, who receives £3,900 for acting as ambassador to Tuscany, lives very comfortably in England. We believe one-half of the other British residents at foreign courts might do the same without much detriment to the public. It is remarkable that the highest allowance of all is enjoyed by the ambassador to a third-rate court—that of Holland; and the increase of salary in this case is justified by reasons which go directly to call for a reduction. Holland was thirty or forty years ago what Vienna and Paris are now, the centre of negotiation among the great Powers. In those times, when the ambassador had often arduous duties to discharge, the salary was £8,320. At present the duties have become insignificant; and, strange to tell, the salary has been increased one-half! When the ambassador had the whole diplomatic business of Europe in his hands, he received £8,000 for his trouble; and now when he has only to look after the Dutch fishermen, he is paid £12,000! This

forms one item of what ministers call "a rigid system of economy."—Lord Clancarty, the present ambassador, is indeed a friend of Lord Londonderry's and a friend of the most confidential kind, for into his hands was put the India Writership which the noble Secretary meant to barter for a seat in Parliament in 1805. But it cannot be contended that this gives him a title to a larger allowance than belongs to his situation. Previous to 1790, Switzerland was a power of some weight in Europe. But the improvement which has taken place in the internal organization of the great states, and the vast expense with which wars are now conducted have reduced the influence of Switzerland, which has a very small public revenue, to nothing. In 1791, when the Cantons were of some importance, our diplomatic business there was managed at an annual expense of £250. Since the peace, when their importance has sunk, the salary has risen to £1600; and this allowance, it seems, is further to be raised to £4400, in favour of a gentleman of the name of Wynn, whose friends have lately deserted the Opposition benches and joined the Ministry. This forms another item in "the system of unsparing retrenchment and rigid economy."

The pay of an American ambassador of the first rank is no more than 9000 dollars, or £3000; and it has been universally admitted, that no country has had its diplomatic concerns better conducted than the United States. This shows at how moderate a charge the real business of a nation may be done. Our allowances ought, no doubt, to be somewhat greater; but to rise from £2000 to £12,000 is something like a leap from economy to profusion. Between these extremes, there is ample room for British dignity on the one hand, and a fair attention to an overtaxed nation on the other. If the scale of pay is high, to induce persons of rank and fortune to undertake the office, we ask why such large retired allowances are given to men who have given up no profession, and made no sacrifices in accepting a situation which is one of trust and honour, rather than of trouble and exertion? The country consults its own credit when it enables its representatives at foreign courts to live in a respectable style; but its internal difficulties cannot be concealed from the eyes of foreigners by investing its envoys with a ridiculous splendour; and its character is disgraced in the judgment of reasonable men, when it transforms those who ought to be men of business into gilded pageants, givers of dinners, and distributors of snuff-boxes.

In the discussions on the 27th, Mr. Hume touched upon a class of abuses which affords ample scope for reform—sinecures and overpaid offices in the colonies. While each of our colonies imposes a certain burden on the mother country, sufficient revenues are raised within many of them to defray their own expenses; but these revenues, instead of being applied to the purposes of government, are dissipated in sinecures and extravagant salaries. Thus, the petty colony of Demerara, with a population, we believe, under 50,000 souls, nine-tenths of whom are negroes, has a Governor with a salary of £2000 or £7000 a-year; a Vendue-Master with £7,000, a sinecure Secretary who drew £3000 or £4000 a-year while a child at Eton school, with a deputy who drew as much more in the colony, and various other offices of the same description. The same disgraceful abuses exist in most of the other colonies. In Jamaica, for instance, a Secretary, who lives in England, and does his duty by deputy, has a

sinécure revenue of £6000 a-year; a Provost-marshal, who holds his office on the same terms, has £2000; the Clerk of the Supreme Court has about as much; and, altogether, Bryan Edwards reckons that £30,000 a-year is drawn by persons living in Britain, and holding offices in the islands by deputy. In Jamaica, Ministers may allege that the abuse is of long standing; but this pretext, despicable as it is, does not apply to Demerara. The latter island came into our possession only in 1803, and the sinécures and extravagant salaries there must have been created by Ministers themselves. The Dutch, from whom we took it, tolerate no such abuses in their dependencies, and, in fact, we have every reason to believe, that when the colony was in their possession the Governor's salary would not exceed that of the neighbouring colony of Surinam, which is only £1200 a-year, or one-fifth of the sum which the British Governor enjoys under the "vigilant control of Parliament," and a "rigid system of economy." It is in vain to say that these sums are paid by Demerara, and not by Britain. The whole, or nearly the whole of the charge of defending the colonies falls on the mother country; but were the money thus misapplied in ministering to the purposes of corruption, expended on the pay of troops and on fortifications, exactly so much would be saved to Britain. A still greater good would be done in cutting off those sources of influence by which alone men like the present Ministers can be supported in office. Does any one believe that under the American government such flagrant abuses would exist a single season? Would any public man there propose the reduction of efficient situations while he carefully preserved sinécures, or venture to cry up those offices as highly beneficial, which served no other purpose than to form a phalanx of political janissaries around him to strengthen him against the counteracting power of knowledge, and the voice of an indignant country?

Jobs and Sinécures.—Ireland, though not literally a colony, has something like a colonial proportion of jobs and sinécures. In the debate on Thursday Sir John Newport mentioned that there were Clerks of the Peace in Ireland who derived five or ten thousand a-year from their office. While the poor peasant is driven to desperation by tithes and taxes, Ireland feeds some dozens of harpies of this kind, and an infinite number of other descriptions. And while there are shoals of such jobs and abuses calling loudly for reform, the Government asks where the mania for economy is to stop? We ask, in our turn, when we are to see an end of the mania of extravagance, and when Ministers will give up, from a regard to decency, what it is a disgrace to keep?—*Scotsman, April 6.*

John Williams, Esq.—We have great pleasure in informing our readers that John Williams, Esq. the spirited and able colleague of Messrs. Broggham and Deaman, in the defence of her Majesty, was, on Saturday last, without opposition, elected to succeed the late Colonel Sibthorp as representative for Lincoln. The opportunities which we have possessed of appreciating the talents and independence of Mr. Williams induce us to consider his introduction to Parliament as a highly important acquisition to the popular interest there. On Monday the 18th instant, Mr. Williams left the circuit at York, accompanied by his friend Mr. Cottingham, the barrister. On Tuesday, they were drawn into Lincoln by the populace, with great parade. During that and three following days, Mr. W. paid his respects to the electors, and pledged himself to support reform, on Mr. Lambton's principles. He was received with great applause on every public occasion. His speeches excited a high political feeling in his behalf, and the Ladies of Lincoln espoused his cause as warmly as he had espoused that of the late Queen. On Saturday he was elected without opposition—chaired with splendour—and entertained at a grand dinner. On Tuesday last, he arrived in his carriage and four at Lancaster.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Packets.—There are now no less than twelve regular packets established between this port and Liverpool, of course there will three of them depart from each place every month. Hence we may calculate, upon receiving through them, and the other regular traders, English intelligence weekly, through the year; a state of things that, if it had been predicted a few years since, would

have been placed to the account of overheated enthusiasm.—*New York Papers.*

A Lucrative Concern.—The Times Newspaper of Wednesday week contained (with a supplementary sheet, distributed gratuitously), the extraordinary number of eight hundred and sixty-six advertisements! The duty payable to Government, at 3s. 6d. each, is £151. 6s. for this single day's publication.

Sir Robert Wilson.—The sum of £30. 5s. the amount of a subscription in Glasgow, in aid of the fund for indemnifying Sir Robert Wilson, has been remitted to the Treasurer in London.

Joseph Hume, Esq.—At a meeting of the Guildry of Montrose, on Monday week, a vote of thanks was passed unanimously to Joseph Hume, Esq. M. P. for his patriotic exertions in Parliament; and it was at the same time resolved to commence a subscription for the purchase of a piece of plate, to be presented to that gentleman.—*Scotsman, April 6.*

Wanted House.—We have just seen an advertisement in a daily paper, which must fill the mind with a long train of moral reflections. This advertisement announces the sale by public auction, not of the magnificent mansion called Wansied House (for that, no doubt, is sufficiently guarded against by legal restrictions) but of all the moveables which it contains—its rare cabinets, tables, china, grand services of plate, grand collection of paintings and sculptured figures, wines, linen, and its valuable and extensive library, consisting of many thousand volumes of books. It will be recollected, that, about ten or twelve years ago, this house came into possession of a young gentleman, who was then, and is still, heir presumptive to the title of Marquis Wellesley, and eldest son of a cabinet Minister, who has lately been raised to the Peerage, by the title of Lord Maryborough. It came into his possession in consequence of his marriage with the rich heiress of the family of Tilney Long, who brought him at the same time other estates of immense value. As soon as the young gentleman came to reside in this noble mansion, his first act was an attempt to exclude the public from a long established right of way through his domain; and when he found, by the result of a legal process, that he could not carry that ungracious and arbitrary measure into effect, he contrived to have a clause smuggled into some local act of Parliament, by which the meditated exclusion was accomplished. His next step was a much bolder grasp at monopoly; it was an attempt to inclose the whole of the extensive forests of which he, by being possessor of Wansied House, had become the lord warden. Such a sweeping measure as this would have added largely to his landed possession, while at the same time, it would have excluded many hundreds of poor cottagers from the means of subsistence which they have long enjoyed. But for some reasons not yet explained, the project was laid aside. For some years before this lord of the manor went away from it, he had been in the habit of employing one hundred labourers every day, improving his grounds; but they were afterwards all dismissed. At the last election he declined setting up for the county of Wilts, the representation of which he might have commanded. The public did not then know how he was disposing of his great fortune. Now they are given to understand, that all the monuments of art and taste, that were necessary to give splendour to the family mansion—a mansion equal to a palace, fit for a King to live in, and heretofore the residence of a King—are to be brought under the hammer of an auctioneer! How painful is it to reflect, that a man who might have been the prop and stay of polished society, should thus dwindle into insignificance!—*Sic transit gloria mundi.*

The Russian American Company.—A German paper states that this company, the privileges of which have been recently confirmed by the Emperor Alexander, is in a most flourishing state. It was established by the Emperor Paul in 1797, and has extensive factories in Irkutsk, Yakutsk, Ochotsk, and Moscow, besides agencies in Kasan, Tomsk, and Kamtschatka. The company has also formed establishments on the north-west coast of America, on the Baranov Islands, at Kudjakun, and in the new

Russian colony of Koss, in Romanoff's Bay. Before the existence of the company, there were only some private trading houses on the Aleutian and Kurile Islands, amounting altogether to 44. In the course of 64 years, from 1743 to 1797, these houses exported peltry to the amount of only 6,044,000 rubles. On the contrary, the company, from its establishment in 1797 to 1813, only 21 years, exported from the same islands, peltry to the amount of more than 15,000,000, and have paid the station of Kiachta on the Chinese frontier alone. The company was founded by shares, 8,000 of which were inscribed at 500 rubles each, but they are now worth more than 600 rubles. An excellent port, called New Archangel, has lately been formed by the company, on the north-west coast of America, and more than 10,000 savages of the Polar regions have been converted to Christianity. The company has allotted 57,000 rubles to the building of an hospital on the island of Sitka.

Slave Trade.—A series of papers relative to the slave-trade on the coast of Africa has been printed by order of the House of Commons. It consists of three letters from Sir Charles McCarthy, the Governor of Sierra Leone, which prove the increased state of abattoir traffic. A memorandum enclosed in one of these letters, dated Sierra Leone the 27th of January, 1822, describing the proceedings of the British cruisers for the last six months on the leeward coast, states that the MYRMIDON, Captain Locke, on arriving at the Bonny, found that river swarming with slave-vessels under different flags, eight of them French, of which four had their inhuman cargoes on board. Captain Locke had also ascertained, on good authority, that the number of slave-cargoes taken out of the Bonny from July, 1820, to 1821, was actually 190, and a similar return from the Calabar, for a like period, made a total of 162. On the same coast, in October, the SNAPPER, Lieutenant Knight, in the course of ten days fell in with nine slave-ships, of which eight were French. The memorandum then proceeds to describe the state of the slave-trade on the windward coast. The following is an extract:—

“The renewal of the traffic in human beings on the windward coast must be viewed by every friend to humanity with deep regret; accompanied as that renewal has been with cruel wars amongst the hitherto peaceful natives; the arrival of a slave-ship in any of the adjacent rivers, is the signal for attack; the hamlets of the natives are burned, and the miserable survivors carried and sold to the slave factors.”

“The line of coast from the island of Goree to the mouth of the Gambia, and from thence to the Portuguese establishments of Cacheo and Bissao, would seem to be the principal seat of this guilty traffic to windward. From this quarter, in addition to the ordinary exportation in large vessels, a very extensive carrying trade is kept up with the Cape de Verd islands, principally by the small craft belonging to Goree and Senegal.”

“The slave-traders at Cacheo have lately given their traffic in the Rio Grande a new feature of barbarous atrocity: they visit this river in armed sloops and boats, landing during the night, and carrying off as many as possible of the truly wretched inhabitants. An appeal to this colony has been lately made on behalf of three villages lately ravaged in this manner.”

“The five rivers Nunez and Pongas are entirely under the control of renegade European and American slave-traders; most of the slaves sent from the former river find their way to Cacheo and the Cape de Verdes, from whence it is said they are shipped as domestics to the Brazils.”

“A French schooner, M. Dees, master, took on board 95 slaves; and a Spaniard, commanded by one Morales, also shipped 160, some time since, in the Rio Pongas. This river not long ago was considered too near this colony to be approached with impunity by slave-vessels. A general idea of the traffic to windward may therefore be formed from the circumstance, that latterly a great number of slaves have been exported from the Pongas, and that slave-vessels may always be found lying there.”

Slave Trade.—As every measure adopted by Parliament for completing and confirming the extinction of the slave-trade, in so

far as British capital, the British flag, or British subjects could directly or indirectly bear any part in its promotion, must be viewed with pleasure by the friends of virtue and humanity; we are happy to see printed, and seemingly well digested, “A bill to amend and consolidate the laws relating to the abolition of the slave trade.” Although there is no large portion of new matter contained in the present bill, a good deal seems to be done by getting rid of the repetitions, the intricacies, and sometimes the, at least apparent, inconsistencies, almost inseparable from the disjointed and piecemeal manner in which the Legislature had been driven to proceed upon this question, from the first resolution to abolish the trade, through a series of ten or eleven acts of Parliament, down to the year 1821.

The law, as it affects the subjects of Great Britain merely, we should hope, will not require any further efforts of Parliament to amend, or of the executive Government to enforce it. With regard to foreign nations, unfortunately, much remains to be done. Although we have removed the guilt from ourselves, we have but transferred it, undiminished, nay aggravated, to our neighbours; and for the miserable Africans, it is certain that their sufferings have experienced no relief. Quarrels among these untaught beings are still provoked by the agents of Europe, and wars instigated, for the monstrous purpose of multiplying prisoners, and cheapening the market of slaves. All the islands of America, all the colonies on or near her coast, but those of which England only is the mistress, swarm with daily importations from Africa; and those who call themselves the most refined and cultivated of Christian nations are busied in desolating one great division of the earth to degrade and corrupt another.—*Times*, April 20.

Ringgate, April 17.—The foundation stone for the pyramid to be erected in honour of his Majesty's visits to this town was laid this day at the spot selected on the pier; a large space, upwards of twenty feet deep, having been dug for that purpose. The stone lowered to the foundation for this purpose was a fine Cornish granite, weighing three tons and a half. It is said that the pyramid is to consist of one entire granite, of nearly 50 feet above ground, after the plan of one at ancient Thebes, in Egypt.

Curious application of Rogue-Money.—By the 11th George I. chap. 25, the appropriation of the rogue-money is expressly limited to the expense of apprehending and prosecuting criminals, and maintaining them in prison previous to trial. Perhaps in no single county is this money applied exclusively as directed by the statute. In Fife this assessment has within a few years increased from £400 and £500 to £1900. This growing burden led some of the most active of the Free holders to investigate how it was expended. Some of these charges are curious enough. In December 1820, the loyal meant to address the King; and “John Robertson” got 1*l*. 5*s*. for going round to procure signatures to the requisition; for delivering intimation cards, 8*s*. was paid; and for going round with the requisition paper, 2*l*. 1*7s*. 9*d*. The requisition thus disposed of, it remained that the meeting should be of the right kind; and accordingly, 8*s*. 6*d*. is charged for delivering letters to the exclusively loyal, requesting a full attendance. The county was called out on the 30th of April last year, to set up a cry against Mr. Kennedy's Jury bill; and for drawing the resolutions, brought forward by Sir John Oswald, with suitable pomp, as his own, a fee of 10*l*. besides the dues for copying was claimed by Mr. Horsburgh. Mr. Stark was in Edinburgh on the night previous to the illumination at Cupar for the Queen's acquittal; and as it was feared by the wise men that a riot would ensue, “John Robertson” was again sent for, this prop. of social order, at an expence of 1*l*. 7*s*. Stark's account bore, that he had been disturbed in his morning slumbers to receive the express; which “incommoded him very much”—the rapidity of his movement having prevented him from spending some time at Kirkcaldy, on his return. As a solatium for this, he charges 7*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*. The expence of “preserving the peace” at Pittenweem, on the election of the Lord Advocate there, was valued 6*l*. 11*s*.; and it was probably worth as much to his Lordship, —one only wonders how it came to be stated as a charge against the county. For “watching Mr. Gourlay's motions” (and—tell

it not at Raitb, "for corresponding with the county member thereabout,") some Fife Oliver had to be paid. A high reward for "young Watson" having been offered, the ever active Procurator Fiscal became a candidate; he failed; but the "labourer was worthy of his hire," and accordingly the Fife rogue-money was debited with the modest sum of 47l. The rogue-money had also to bear the burden of some proceedings against a person for uttering seditious and treasonable expressions: as to the news respecting Thistlewood's conspiracy against the King's Ministers; the Radical meeting at Pittenweem had to be watched at the county's expense; and so zealous were the functionaries, that they actually bought up a quantity of Cobbett's Weekly Register, to save the people's loyalty from taint. There were in the accounts a great number of other items saddled upon the rogue-money with little regard to justice.—*Mor. Chronicle, Mar. 21.*

The Greeks.—Zante, Feb. 19.—The Military operations of the Greeks, in some respects slackened for the last four months by dissensions relative to the form of Government, have commenced with activity. Already Coslojeanne and Pallasas, who have replaced Ulysses in the passage of Thermopylae, have obtained a victory over 12,000 Turks, who, arriving from Macedonia, attempted to pass into Livadia. On the other hand, Colocotron, one of the four Generals of the Peloponnesus, has advanced, at the head of 8,000 men into Acarnania. Demetrius Ypsilanti has also proceeded towards Thessaly with 10,000 men, drawn from the Peloponnesus; Attica, and Boeotia.

The Turkish fleet passed the Dardenelles, on the 3d of Feb., and sailed towards the waters of Hydra. After remaining six hours before that Island without attempting any operation, it proceeded on its destination. It passed the island of Spezia and the Gulf of Napoli di Romania, without stopping, and took the direction of Cape Matapan. The fleet consists of sixty sail, of which six are of the line, twenty galleotas, brigs and frigates, and thirty-four transports. It has on board from six to seven thousand troops for debarkation. The Greek fleet consists of eighty-five sail, of which forty are of Hydra, twenty-five of Ipsera, and thirty of Spezia, appeared on the coast of the last-mentioned island three days after the passage of the Turkish fleet, which it appeared to follow.—*French Paper.*

Letters dated the 15th instant, were received yesterday from Trieste, which state, that an engagement has taken place between the Greek and Turkish fleets, in which the former had the advantage, and succeeded in capturing twenty-five transports. The Greeks it is said, had 75 sail, and the Turks only 60. The latter had no ships of war of the first class. The accounts rests on the authority of the Commander of a Greek vessel, arrived at Trieste, who declared, however, that he had been an eye-witness of the engagement, which occurred on the 3d instant. It was fought off Patras.

According to news from Greece received at Marseilles on the 10th of March, the Congress of the Peloponnesus has resolved that Representatives shall be sent to the different Courts of Europe to obtain a recognition of the independence of Greece. Political negotiations will be opened between the United States of North America and the independent Islands of the Archipelago. It is affirmed that the American frigate CAROLINE, which entered the Port of Trieste on the 14th February, is bound for Hydra; and has on board arms and ammunition. The Greek Deputies to be sent to the Congress at Washington will embark for North America on-board this vessel.

It appears now to be ascertained, that the Fortress of Corinth surrendered in the first week of February. It is reported to have contained 25 millions of piastres, or about £. 700,000. As soon as the Greeks form a regular system of Government, their friends in England expect their cause to be successful, even without the assistance of any of the Christian States in Europe.

Criminal Law.—A person talking to Fenelon upon the subject of the criminal laws of France, and approving of the many executions that had taken place under them, in opposition to the arguments of the Archbishop, said, "I maintain that such per-

sons are unfit to live."—"But, my friend," said Fenelon, "you do not reflect that they are still more unfit to die."

Cotton Wool, Glasgow, April 13.—The sales, during last week, amounted to 1011 bales:—

33 Sea Island.....	16d. a 16½d.
577 Bowed.....	9d. a 10½d.
18 Orleans.....	11½d.
9 Alabamas.....	9d.
195 Demerara, &c.....	10½d. to 10¾d.
50 Pernambuco.....	12½d.
33 Tortola.....	9½d. a 9¾d.
16 Snrat.....	7½d. a 8d.
60 Bengal.....	6½d. a 7d.

Imports.—1 vessel from Demerara with 241 bales—2 in Lochinda, with 382, saved from the wreck of the ORION, Davies, from New Orleans.

Young Watson.—We observed in THE COURIER an account of the trial and execution of Young Watson for Burglary in America; but, as we could not reconcile this account with what we knew respecting American punishments, we set it down for a fabrication, and did not copy it. The father has published a letter on the subject, in which he says:—"I most respectfully beseech the public will suspend their opinions and censures until a further explanation of the mysterious report; for, taking into consideration his sense of honour—his sobriety in England—the particulars of his letters—the advertisements in the Nashville papers—the evidence they contain of his being engaged in a respectable and extensive branch of trade—the circumstance of a person wandering about the Atlantic States of America personifying him and using his name to extort money—and the fact that the law in America does not inflict capital punishment but for murder and treason, altogether cast more than a common mystery upon the account contained in the Baltimore paper, and makes me hope it is a fabrication of some evil mind."

Lord Byron.—The account which has got into circulation of Lord Byron having submitted his right to certain property, bequeathed to his wife by her mother, the late Lady Noel, in consequence of the doubtful construction of terms, to the amicable decision of mutual friends, must be utterly without foundation; the exclusion of his Lordship from any participation in the bequests is positive; and Lady Byron is empowered to dispose of her interest by will or otherwise, at her discretion, in default of which it descends, without reservation (as stated in a former paper), to their daughter, Lady Ada Augusta.—*Morning Paper.*

President of the Cortes.—Admiral Valdes, the new President of the Cortes, had a command in the battle of Trafalgar, where he received seventeen wounds. He commanded at Cadiz when the French army besieged that city. On the restoration of the King, he was imprisoned in a fortress, in which he was detained six years. After the revolution of 1820 he was again appointed Governor of Cadiz, and afterwards Minister of War. Admiral Valdes is the uncle of Riego, but it is said that he does not go so far in politics as his nephew, and that he is inclined to the moderate system of Toreno and Arguelles.

Gold Fish-hook.—A few days since was found near Bescarne, in the parish of Bodmin, a gold fish-hook, size No. 3, in the bed of an old river, where some men were working for tin; and not far from the same spot were taken up several Roman coins of the reigns of Vespasian and some of the latter Emperors, &c. The whole are in the possession of Robert Flamank, Esq., of Bodmin, the land-owner.

Havannah.—By letters from the Havannah, dated the 2d of March, it appears that that port has been established as an entrepot for merchandise of every description, with the liberty of export and import at the rate of one per cent. The situation of that port, its superior harbour in all seasons, and its tranquillity amid all the late agitations, have given it a degree of importance which it could not have enjoyed under the strict monopoly of old Spain. The average yearly crops of assorted sugar, exclusive of Muscovado, are said to exceed 300,000 boxes, and the quantity of coffee exported is stated at 18,000,000 pounds.

NAVAL IMPROVEMENTS.

—69—

Letter of Sir Robert Seppings.

A Letter addressed to the Right Honourable Viscount Melville, Baron Dunsra, First Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty, on the Circular Sterns of Ships of War. By Sir R. Seppings, Surveyor of His Majesty's Navy.

MY LORD,

Navy Office, January 1, 1822.

During your Lordship's Naval Administration, many changes have taken place in the Naval Department, not only in the government and the improvement of our Armaments, but also in the construction of His Majesty's Ships of War.

It is the fate, however, of the most important and beneficial improvements, on their first introduction, to meet with opposition from some quarter or other, and more especially if they should happen to differ essentially from long-established usage; even a change in the shape and external appearance of what the eye has been accustomed to look at, is quite sufficient to give a bias to the decision of a casual observer, and to warp his judgment, although in fact he may have, generally speaking, no other means of judging of the advantages which such a change of form may carry along with it.

Of the many changes that have taken place in the external appearance of our ships of war, none, I may venture to say, has produced so many comments and such variety of opinions, as that of the square into the circular, or, what is more commonly termed, the round stern recently introduced by me.

Although a general outline of the advantages of this new plan of forming a ship's stern has been frequently stated to your Lordship, prior to, and since, its adoption, perhaps a more detailed account of the imperfections of the square stern, and the advantage of the circular one, may not be unacceptable; and with this impression, I have presumed to lay them before your Lordship.

It is a fact, well known to experienced Naval Officers and Naval Architects, that a ship's stern, constructed on the square principle, is not only extremely weak and defenceless, compared with the rest of the fabric, but that this weak and defenceless point is in a part of the ship where strength of fabric, and the means of defence, are not unfrequently most required, and, from want of which, some of our ships of war, of the largest class, have suffered very considerably, even from the lowest description of vessels opposed to them; namely, Gun-Boats; and it is also well known, that, owing to the form and the feebleness of the structure of this part of a ship, the strokes of the sea against the stern, usually termed pooping, have not only shaken the fabric, but greatly endangered the safety of the vessel.

To obviate the evils resulting from this acknowledged weak and defenceless form of the square stern, by the introduction of the circular form, was the main object which pointed out the propriety of an alteration, both in the shape and arrangement of the materials.

But our feelings are apt to undergo a change from a change of circumstances. It was a time of war when the alteration was first proposed, and it was well received; but the subject is now discussed in time of peace, under different circumstances, and of course, under different impressions. In war, a change of appearance is not a consideration with the commander, if the ship become thereby more efficient; alterations for the sake of appearances were seldom thought of; or applied for; then, indeed, so regardless of supposed beauty of appearance were many officers, that it was no uncommon thing to disguise their vessels, by painting and otherwise, so as to give them the semblance of *Colliers*, when they conceived it might be the means of bringing the enemy within reach of their guns; and in fact, some ships had not even a bulkhead to the Captain's apartment, save only a canvass screen.

Many instances might be given of what I have here stated, as regards the extent of accommodation to the officers; but one may suffice. It is that of the "Indefatigable," when commanded by Sir Edward Pellew (now Lord Exmouth). This ship had a cabin, the area of which was only about 770 square feet, (nearly half of which his Lordship ultimately gave up). Now the cabin of a frigate of the largest class, and of a similar rate, has an area of about 1,260 square feet. In point of fact, the area of the floor or deck of the circular stern ship, differs very little from that of the square stern, as to space: for instance, the ships of a similar rate to the *Christian VII.*, built with a circular stern, will have a cabin equal to an area of about 1,360 square feet, which is 349 feet more than the cabin of that ship, independent of the gallery round the stern; and in sister ships, one built with square, and the other with circular sterns, the area of their cabins does not differ more than about 30 square feet; but taking the stern walks into the calculation, the difference will be in favour of that with the circular form*.

* The writer is not unaware, that British ships of the same classes with square sterns, have their after-cabins in some degree larger than those with circular sterns, and that altogether the latter may not present so handsome an appearance.

When the same experienced officer (Lord Exmouth) commanded the *Christian VII.*, so great were the advantages which he conceived to be derived from an alteration in the form of a ship's stern, by narrowing only that part, as was the case in that particular ship, that his Lordship recommended her as a model to be built after, from that very circumstance, as will hereafter appear; though, I confess, with all deference to such high authority, I cannot see any advantages to be derived from such a form of stern as was given to the *Christian VII.*

I have before observed, that the ideas of person in war and in peace are very different. A ship of war, in times of hostility, is, or should be, a floating castle capable of acting upon the offensive or defensive, as the case may be; but in peace, they are *allowed* to appear under a somewhat different character; for instance, a proportion only of their established ordnance is in the latter case on board. When no enemy is at sea to contend with, a ship of war may in fact be considered as a yacht on a large scale, and that which appears to meet the eye as the most pleasing figure, is not unlikely, under such circumstances, to be set down as the most approved model of a ship.

Under this impression, one of our most experienced officers of the Navy has repeatedly told me, "that so long as peace continues, the circular form will not be popular; but in the event of a change to hostilities, its utility will find innumerable advocates."

Advocates, no doubt, would greatly increase, though I have heard it asserted, in another quarter, "that in the event of hostilities, under the present feeling, the command of a small 74-gun ship, with the square, or common stern, would be preferable to that of the finest ship in the Navy, with the circular form." Thus, although it is admitted, by competent judges, that the circular principle is best adapted for the services required of a ship of war, there are not wanting those who would hazard a sacrifice of utility to external appearance. If such doctrines should prevail to any great extent, our works of defence would be constructed according to the fashionable architecture of the day, without any regard to the strength and stability of the building.

But I am digressing from the two leading points I set out with: namely, the weakness of the square stern, both as it respects the fabric and the means of defence. I shall now, my Lord, proceed to produce, from official documents and other sources, certain proof of the imperfection of the common square stern, on the weakness of which I shall only beg leave to refer to the annexed Appendix, taken from official documents; wherein will be found about sixty ships of the line, and the same number of frigates whose commanders have reported officially on the defective state of their sterns. This list could have been considerably increased; but I considered that it afforded ample evidence, to prove the insufficiency of the square structure. In some instances, I was induced to bring the same ship forward on the list more than once, with a view to shew that this insufficiency was not manifested only under particular circumstances; but that the weakness of that part was uniform. It should be borne in mind also, that the defects mentioned were produced in the ordinary course of service of a ship of war.

It may not, perhaps, be improper to give an instance or two of the state to which a ship is reduced after having received the shock of a sea abaft, which, as before-mentioned, is termed pooping. When the Dictator was returning from the West Indies, in December, 1797, it appears by the journal, "that the sea struck the ship on the stern, stove in the deadlights and frames; people employed at the pumps, and getting the ship cleared, every thing being washed away on the main-deck forward; ship worked and laboured very much and had fallen abaft, and six of the after-guns were thrown overboard to ease her."

When the Revolutionnaire was returning from the West Indies, in January, 1804, the Commander of that ship states, "that going fourteen knots, a heavy sea pooped the ship, stove in the deadlights, carried away the bulkhead of the cabin, indeed, made a clear sweep; fortunately (he states) I had ordered all the hatchways to be battened down, or the ship certainly would have foundered. The next day, I found the whole stern frame very much shaken, and the ocean worked out of the seams in the counter; and the ship worked so, that the quarter-deck ladder was obliged to be hung with rope, as every roll it came under the comings of the hatchway; and to ease the after part of the ship, we hove four of our guns overboard."

In reading that interesting narrative of Captain Ingfield's of the loss of the *Centaur*, which I considered in point, he states as follows: "The stern-post was so loose that, as the ship rolled, the water rushed in on either side in great streams, which 'could not be stopped.' I am therefore borne out in saying, that had others been providentially saved, from ships lost under similar circumstances, they would have described the state of their ships as above related."

I could, my Lord, add many such instances as those enumerated; but it would only prolong the statement, without adding to its support, more especially as the point of strength gained by the circular form must be admitted, when it is understood, that the circular sterns are formed, and, in all respects, timbered and secured in the same manner

as the circular bow. It therefore follows, that the strength of the circular stern is equal to that of the bow; and consequently adequate to withstand the shock of a sea, which can be considered no other abaft, than what a ship's bow is constantly destined to bear when sailing against a head sea.

The circular bow, when introduced in our ships of the line, was, and is generally, approved: now, the stern is in all respects similar, and therefore I am at a loss to account for the approbation bestowed on the same system, at one extreme of the fabric, and the disapprobation of it at the other.

It may be right to remark here, when speaking of the circular bows, that previously to their introduction, the upper decks were exposed, and liable to be raked; and, as an instance, I beg to state, that after the battle of Trafalgar, the Victory was repaired at Chatham, in which yard I was then Master-Shipwright. It struck me very forcibly, how much she had suffered on the upper or main deck, through the breakhead, when bearing down on the enemy at the commencement of that memorable action, arising from the want of continuing the circular bow with the regular timbering, &c., from the upper, or main-deck, above the fore-castle, as is now practised; and it was perfectly evident that had this ship been so formed, many a life would have been saved, as no shot of any description appeared to have entered the lower or middle decks, where the bow was regularly and solidly built; whereas, on the contrary, the common grape-shot had raked her through the slight bulkhead, at the fore part of the main or upper deck, where the bow was not so built. All this was fully acknowledged by Sir Thomas Hardy, her then Captain; in consequence of which, I came to a determination to recommend that ships of the line should, in future, be built with circular bows, and referred to a ship so treated (Namur) at my recommendation, some little time before; but I did not succeed in establishing this principle generally, until the naval administration of the Right Honourable Charles Yorke.

Many years since, when on duty at Portsmouth-Yard, a Captain of a line-of-battle ship came into the Master-Shipwright's office, and complained in very strong language, of the weak state of the stern of his ship. I was, from experience, well aware of the correctness of his assertions; and from that time, determined in my own mind, that if I should ever be able to effect a change in the form and principle of building the sterns of our ships of war, I would not let the opportunity pass. That time at length arrived, and, through your Lordship's confidence in my representations, I have been enabled to carry my long-meditated plan into execution.

Your Lordship cannot require more satisfactory proof, in aid of your former conviction, of weakness of the square stern, and of the necessity of a change. I shall now proceed to point out its defenceless state: with this view, I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the diagrams hereunto annexed, being faithful copies of that stern which was, and that which is; and, for the better elucidation of this subject, I have caused correct models to be made on a large scale; one half, or side, on the old principle, and the other on the new, in similar ships, which can be placed side by side, thereby forming one ship, with the stern built on different systems. These models have, also, moveable guns mounted, and so contrived as to shew their elevation and depression, the point where the shot from the stern will cross, &c. &c.

It is scarcely here worth while to observe, that, when I have advanced such proofs of the superior defence of the circular stern, it has occasionally been asked, when was such additional defence necessary?—that an English ship was never intended to turn her stern to the enemy—and other observations of the same kind. Where it not, my Lord, that such cavilling evinces a spirit of frivolous opposition, and tends to make impressions on those unable to discriminate, which are not easily afterwards eradicated.

To such, I would beg leave to state a few plain facts, which, I vain would hope, will carry conviction to the most prejudiced.

When the Alexander, of 74 guns, was chased and captured by five French ships of the line, in 1794, after a most gallant resistance, she attempted, during the chase, to fire her stern guns, but with little success, as in no instance could the shot cross, and when the enemy laid on her quarter (or what is termed the point of impunity), she ceased to annoy her opponents.

In the memorable action of Lord Howe, in 1794, and in other general actions, many of the ships suffered much after losing their masts, and thereby falling off, by which they were exposed to the fire of the enemy, without the means of defending themselves; indeed, so conspicuous was this on the 1st of June, when ships were circumstanced as above stated, that I am told that a Lieutenant, who was in that action, and now a Commissioner of the Navy, drew a circular form for the stern, as the figure which would, under the circumstances above stated, have afforded them the means of bringing their quarter-guns on the enemy, and thereby drawing off the fire which then annoyed them.

During the war, I believe that the following ships, among others, of the line, suffered very considerably, in the Bay of Gibraltar, and on the Coast of Spain, from gun-boats, namely, the Gibraltar, Northumberland, Terrible, and Powerful; and I believe the ships serving in the Baltic, secured and armed the stern in the best manner its form would admit, from a constant apprehension of attack in calms, when passing the Belt; and the Minotaur and Dictator, it appears, lost in killed and wounded, many men, by gun-boats raking them in a calm: in fact, so conspicuous was the defenceless state of the sterns of our ships, that Lieutenant James Conitts Crawford (now a Post-Captain), serving in the Prince, off Cadiz, in 1798, writes to a friend as follows: "Many here complain of the want of strength in the construction of our ships' sterns, and also of their improper form for defence; for instance, in this ship (Prince) we cannot fire a gun from our lower-deck out at the sternports, without materially injuring the lower counter, it is so flat, and overhangs so much; from the middle-deck, we cannot fire without cutting away a transom that is placed so high that the guns cannot be pointed over it." He then proceeds to state the opinion of Captain Larcom, of the Prince, as to the form which a ship's stern should have, which is as follows: It is Captain Larcom's opinion, that the stern of a man-of-war should be constructed like that of a Dutch fly-boat: that there should be ports all round, to enable you to fire in every direction, and from all the decks; that there should be no ornaments; and, as to convenience, that there should be water-closets as they have in West-Indiamen, instead of quarter-galleries."

These, my Lord, are the feelings of officers in times of hostility: nothing is here stated about the beauties of projecting quarter-galleries, raking sterns, &c.

Captain Larcom's suggestions most certainly very much accord with what I have put in practice; and it may appear that I collected my ideas from his description; but I can with great truth state, that I was not favoured with the document from Lieutenant Crawford to his friend (Mr. Gillett), and from which I made the quotation, until some years after the circular sterns were constructed; nevertheless, this excellent seaman's opinion, according so much with that which was directed to be put in practice, has afforded me real satisfaction.

Before I drop the subject of ships of the line, and the propriety of their having the means of defence abaft, let me refer to the retreat of Admiral Cornwallis, whose squadron made a noble defence in that retreat, against a French fleet; but what was the state of their ships? They had no means of firing but right aft, and to accomplish which, they were mutilated to such a degree to enable them to apply their guns, that a reef of no small extent was necessary, before they could be considered again fit for service.

Nor can I, in this statement, pass over that very extraordinary action wherein Sir Sidney Smith may be said to have defeated a fleet of Russian ships of war, with a squadron of Swedish gun-boats! Could this have been the case, had those ships been capable of working their stern and quarter guns with equal facility as those of the broadside?

How frequently have our ships of war suffered when getting on shore, from such description of vessels (gun-boats), and from forts also, when from their form they were unable to return the fire. This cannot again occur, as the first-rate ship can, in any position in which she may be attacked abaft, bring at least ten guns to bear on her assailant; a two-decked ship, eight; and a frigate, four—and that without injuring the fabric.

Having stated the disadvantages that ships of the line have laboured under, from the want of the means of defence abaft, which statement is not mere assertion, but drawn from authentic facts, I consider it will be proper to give some few instances of ships of the frigate class, I will therefore select two instances, namely, the *Blanche* with *La Pique*, in 1794; and, of more recent date, that of the *Phoenix* with the *Didon*.

With regard to the action of the *Blanche* with *La Pique*, I have the authority of an officer whose conduct was very conspicuous in that most severe action, and who has so deservedly since risen to a very considerable rank in our naval service, from whom I have received the following statement:

"In the action the *Blanche's* mizen-mast, and shortly after her main-mast, were shot away; just before this happened, we had, with the intention of boarding, put out helm a-star-board, and run across the stem of *La Pique*, her bowsprit coming over our quarter-deck; to secure her in this situation Captain Faulkner and myself made every rope we could get hold of, fast round our capstan: and the end of the hawser being handed up, we effectually secured her, by passing it also round her bowsprit. The *Blanche's* main and mizen masts being shot away, and the head sails filling, she paid off before the wind, thus brought *La Pique* astern towing by the bowsprit. We were immediately much annoyed from her quarter-deck guns, well served, and pointed forward, without our being able to return a gun, having no sternports on the main-deck. We had no alternative left but to blow out the stern frame.

All the firemen, with their buckets, were assembled in the cabin, and both the after guns pointed against the stern frame; this made a clear breach on both sides, and the fire was immediately extinguished. We now raked her with great effect, clearing her decks fore and aft, and they soon after called out they had surrendered. If we had not used the expedient of blowing out the stern frame, the want of stern ports might have led to serious consequences; at all events, the loss of many men." This officer continues, "I think it of the utmost consequence to add to the force of our ships' sterns, provided it does not take away from the broadside. In *La S—e* I had the quarter galleries formed into ports, and in action in that ship fought a gun there, by transporting it on the other side. This gun pointed very considerably on the quarter, and a little before the beam."

Respecting the gallant action of the *Phoenix* with the *Didon*, the Captain of the former ship thus expresses himself:—"I believe it has long been understood, that the quarters of ships are worse defended than any other part of them, and as this idea struck me forcibly whilst in command of the *Phoenix*, I ventured to make an alteration, to which I attribute a good deal of the success obtained over the *Didon*. It was the clearing away the timber heads in the way of the windows next the quarters, in the same manner as most of the frigates had done with those next the rudder-head, thereby obtaining a port which acted almost in a bow and quarter direction." After stating certain impediments in transporting the gun abaft, which occasioned great loss of officers and men, he thus proceeds, we succeeded, however, at last, and the effect of our first fire from that gun (quarter gun) was such as almost to insure the success of the battle. I was told that twenty-four men fell from the first discharge."

When I hear it said that British ships were never meant to turn their sterns to the enemy, or to defend themselves abaft, and other assertions of similar import, it is as before observed, not a little trying to hear such remarks, more especially when it is well known that squadrons have retreated before fleets by means of a force applied abaft, even badly as it was arranged; that others have suffered from the want of such defence being well arranged, particularly in the instance of the two frigates just related, one of which would, in all probability, have been sacrificed, but for the bold, though dangerous expedient of blowing out the stern; and the other, no doubt, would have purchased her success at a much greater sacrifice of lives, but for the happy precaution of being as well prepared, as the construction of the ship would admit.

Nevertheless, when I relate these circumstances to those that are unfriendly to the change, they reply that such occurrences seldom happen, &c. But it should be borne in mind, that one victory gained by the enemy may be, and is of much more importance than many gained by ourselves; in fact, the injury done is incalculable, for it greatly tends to transfer the confidence previously possessed to the breast of an enemy, and on which point we are not without experience.

I cannot refrain from remarking on what is stated by him, who so obligingly communicated to me the particulars of the action of the *Blanche* and *La Pique*. He observes, when speaking of the stern, "I think it of the utmost consequence to add to the force of our ships' sterns, provided it does not take away from the broadside."

It is somewhat singular that any such impression should be made as that the circular sterns have deprived the ships of a broadside gun; for so much is the contrary the case, that in the class of ships similar to the *Caopus*, which have circular sterns, an additional gun may, if thought necessary, be carried on each side on the lower gun deck; and in the frigates that are building, similar to the *Seringapatam*, with circular sterns, they may constantly be armed with an additional gun on their main or upper deck.

Other objections, equally unfounded, have been brought forward against the circular stern, as that, for instance, the main brace has not equal spread as heretofore, when positively the contrary is the case. In fact, the circular form has many advantages which are denied to the weak structure of the common square stern; for instance, the circular stern is stronger, the guns can be fought with the same facility as those of the broad-side, without deteriorating the ship; and, if required, the ships of the line can be moored by the stern with equal security as by the head, the form being similar, and possessing equal strength. Supposing a ship to fall off in action, by the loss of her main-mast, rudder, or tiller, &c., she has still the power of making resistance. The form and timbering give greater protection in the event of being raked, or pooped by the sea. Should a ship, built on this system, lose her rudder, stern walk, &c., the main fabric is undisturbed, but the contrary is the case with the square stern. The ship's sailing qualities cannot be injured by the removal of the projecting quarter-galleries, but on a wind will be improved. Ships of the line will stow an additional boat; dead lights may be placed or displaced in a short period, with little labour and no difficulty. Ships of the line of every class will have a stern walk; and as before stated, many of the ships will carry an additional gun on the broadside, and in no instance will their force be reduced.

With respect to economy in constructing the stern, straight timber is, in a great degree, substituted for valuable compass or crooked timber.

In the event of future wars, an alteration in the form of the sterns of our ships of war would, in all probability, have been absolutely necessary, by which the guns may be worked with greater effect and facility, in consequence of the introduction of Steam-Vessels: and that America is firmly convinced that a system of attack by this description of vessels is not only practicable, but that it will also be destructive in its operations, is not to be doubted; indeed, I have been told, from good authority, that they have lately well manned one of their frigates, given the command of her to a good officer, and directed an experiment to be tried, if a vessel propelled by steam could not, under any circumstances, lay on the quarter of the ship she attacked, and the result was completely in favour of the steam-vessel.

That a fabric destined for attack or defence should not, in any one point, be more assailable than another, must be allowed, and by the introduction of the circular principle this great object is accomplished; for it should be constantly borne in mind, that the real strength of a ship is only equal to that of her weakest part. This observation holds good, both as it respects strength of fabric, and strength in point of defence; and it therefore follows, that a ship of war, let her force be what it may (as is fully exemplified in the ships of the line off Gibraltar, &c., when attacked by the gun-boats, with the common stern), is nearly defenceless under some circumstances; and as it respects the fabric, there is sufficient evidence, from official documents, in the annexed Appendix, to prove, under any circumstances, that the square stern is a feeble structure.

I believe it is generally allowed that ships of war have received great strength by the new principle of ship-building, the stern only excepted. That the great benefit which is acknowledged to arise from the diagonal system of building would be incomplete without the continuance of that system of strength round the stern, and it therefore follows, that the introduction of the circular form in that part of the ship became absolutely necessary to make the strength of the fabric uniform and complete.

I shall now sum up the supposed objectionable points that have come to my knowledge: 1st, That a ship looks not, in seamen's phrase, *ship-shape*; 2d, That the situation of the water-closets is not so well disposed of, particularly in the ward-room; 3d, That the captain's cabin is deprived, in some degree, of space abaft, &c.; 4th, what I have before stated, That a British ship requires no defence abaft, &c.; and lastly, That a ship is not so powerful abaft, with the circular, as with the square stern.

As to the first point, I know not exactly what is meant by *ship-shape*; but this I do know, that a tower of defence is always circular; and as a ship is a floating castle, the circle is the figure she ought to assume. It has been said, that our ancient ships of war were circular abaft: this is incorrect; they were, until the latter end of the reign of Charles II., square in their sterns, many feet below the surface of the water.

2d. With respect to the water-closets, the objection is removed in the wardroom, in which part, ships with circular sterns have equal space with the square stern; and all ships of the line have a stern walk in the Admiral's and Captain's cabin, from which the water-closets may be entered, or from the inside of the cabin, if preferred; and I have the most satisfactory reports from the Captains of frigates in commission, which are built on this principle, that they are not annoyed in this respect in the least; and further, that no complaint has yet been made from the ship's form, as it respects their sailing qualities. I cannot, therefore, see any reason for this objection, but if it should be desirable to remove the water-closets to the quarter of the frigates, there can be no objection, as it is perfectly practicable.

With respect to the Captain's cabins of ships of the line all of them contain nearly as many superficial feet as heretofore, if the stern walk is taken in, and all must contain more than sufficient, if the *Christian VII.* had enough, which ship was, as will hereafter appear, strongly recommended as a model to be built after.

To the objection, that the circular stern presents less force than the square, I am sure your Lordship will excuse me from making a reply, as such an assertion can only have been made from the want of knowledge of the principle on which it is constructed.

But as the advantages of the circular stern, and the objections to its adoption, are so much more ably combated by M. Dupin, a learned French engineer, than I am capable of doing, I request your Lordship's permission to introduce an extract from his work (in the Appendix) on British ship-building, to which I beg to refer.

It may not here be out of place to insert an extract of a letter from the ingenious calculator, Mark Beaufoy, Esq., to Dr. Thomson, although written long after I had recommended the change, containing suggestions for the improvement of the Navy, published in the *Annals of Philosophy* in July, 1817:

"By giving the stern an arched form, it is rendered as strong as the bow; and by contracting the after part, the vessel is better adapted for turning to windward; for the common construction of square sterns and large quarter galleries, by holding a great deal of wind, must impede the ship's progress when turning to windward; and a vessel of this shape is better adapted either for offence or defence, as guns may be run aft and pointed more than half round the compass."

Such a statement of facts, as I have here presumed to lay before your Lordship, was absolutely necessary to be promulgated, not only with a view of describing the advantages of the circular form, compared with the square, but also to arrest opinions, as singular as they are incorrect, which have, no doubt, in many instances, proceeded from want of knowledge of the benefits arising therefrom, as well also (as before remarked) from not adverting to the change of the times from war to peace; not that I mean, my Lord, to be understood that this feeling is general; on the contrary, there are many able and experienced officers who greatly approve of the system.

Should, at any future period, a change taken place in our Naval Administration, over which your Lordship now presides, there can be but little doubt, even if those come into the administration who are unfriendly to the system, they will well consider this subject ere the positive advantages of the circular form are given up for the imaginary superior appearances of the square.

I cannot, I conceive, my Lord, more forcibly conclude this statement, than by giving an extract of a letter from Lord Exmouth (then Sir Edward Pellew) to the Right Honourable Charles Yorke, when First Lord of the Admiralty, dated Caledonia, Mahor, 15th December, 1811, wherein it will be seen, in addition to what has already been stated, that British ships have had occasion to make use of stern or rather quarter guns, for such was the singular arrangement of the vessel, of which his Lordship speaks so favourably, that there was not space on the main or upper deck to fire a single right aft shot, and only one gun could be so worked on the quarter-deck, from the narrowed form of the stern, which also reduced the accommodation, as may be seen by the annexed diagrams. Nevertheless, she possessed, with these imperfections, the advantages so ably stated by his Lordship, which were as follows:—"Captain Tetley's steadiness, united with the advantageous form of the *Perlin*, saved her from capture; her rounded quarters presented six guns to two of the enemy's and one stern chase, and this it was which provoked the line of battle ship to yaw and fire, and of course she dropped. The frigates got unrigged forward by that superiority of fire as they advanced. I mention this in coincidence with my former opinion of the *Christina* on the *Seynath*; and I still think no ship can approach her from aft without losing a bowsprit or fore-mast. I hope you will not give up your first intention of laying the *Cambridge* down on her plans."

I think it unnecessary to say a word more, than to subscribe myself, with every sentiment of respect,

My Lord, Your Lordship's obliged, And most devoted Servant,

ROBERT SEPPINGS.

P. S. Since the foregoing letter was sent to the press, the *OWEN GLENDOWER*, of 42 guns, commanded by the Hon. Captain Spencer, and built with a circular stern, has arrived, after an absence of more than two years from England; having been round Cape Horn and returned, the official reports are highly favourable.

And having lately perused "*James's Naval History of Great Britain*," recently published, I find he has noticed the weakness of the square sterns, and their want of defensive means, in several parts of that work. Vol. i. page 325, he says, when detailing Admiral Cornwallis's action, June 1795, that "owing to the comparatively flimsy structure of their square stern-frames, and the want of proper post-holes, all the British ships, however, were great sufferers from the protracted stern fire which they were obliged to maintain. In the *Triumph*, the stern-galleries, Bulk-heads, and every part of the stern in the wardroom, except the timbers, were cut away; and, from her three-stern batteries, that ship expended, in single shots, nearly 5,000 lbs. of powder."—Again, page 347, he confirms what I have stated respecting the action between the *Blauche* and *Piquez*. And in vol. ii. page 210; when giving an account of the chase of the *Brilliant*, commanded by the present Sir Henry Blackwood, by the two French frigates *Vertu* and *Regenerée*, he states, that, "at half-past 12 o'clock, finding her pursuers were gaining upon her, she cut down the stern to make room for two 9-pounder as chasers, and got two 6-pounders aft on the quarter-deck for the same purpose."

DEATHS.

On the 15th of April, aged 4, Charles John Slade Ash, youngest son of Mr. John Ash, of Pentonville Academy, Cumming-street.

On the 12th of April, Thomas Oliver, Esq., of Baywater, in the 80th year of his age.

At Croydon, on Sunday evening, the 14th of April, Richard Bush, Esq., aged 84.

Varieties.

LOVE.

Oh! yet one smile, tho' dark may loar
Around thee clouds of woe and ill,
Let me yet feel that I have power,
Mid Fate's bleak storms, to soothe thee still.

Tho' sadness be upon thy brow,
Yet let it turn, dear love, to me,
I cannot bear that thou should'st know
Sorrow I do not share with thee.

True love's wreath is of mountain flowers,
They stand the storm and brave the blast,
And blossom on; so love like ours
Is sweetest when all else is past.

Too well I know what storms have frowned,
And now frown on life's troubled tide;
Still darker let them gather round,
They have no power on hearts so tried,
Then say not that you cannot bear,
To try a heart so light as mine;
I shall not shrink, or fear to share
The darkest fate, if it be thine!

EPIGRAM.

On a man of the name of Treble being apprehended for picking pockets:

Treble with London pick-pockets they say,
Has long time held the tenor of his way;
If this be true and can be prov'd the case,
Then Treble's tenor must be thorough base.

SACERDOS.

Mr. Gosling, a Clergyman of Canterbury, is said to have been the writer of an admirable parody on the noted grammatical line—

Bifrons, atque Cuius, Bos, Fur, Sus, atque Sacerdos.

It runs thus:

Bifrons ever when he preaches;
Cuius of what in his reach is;
Bos, amongst his neighbour's wives;
Fur, in gathering of his tithes;
Sus, at every parish feast;
On Sunday *Sacerdos*, a priest.

Singular Occurrence—In the course of last summer, a lady of Liverpool, intending a visit to her friends in Manchester, sent a piece of very valuable lace to her dress-maker, to be prepared for her wear on that occasion. The lace was clear starched and put to bleach on a grass-plot in the outskirts of the town, at the back of a respectable dwelling-house, well fenced with high walls; notwithstanding which, it disappeared in the course of the day. The only occupiers of the premises were a lady and a female servant. The most painful suspicions were excited, and all search and inquiry proved fruitless. The lady made her visit to Manchester without the ornamental appendage, and the other parties thought of nothing less than making indemnification for the loss on the lady's return. It so happened, some time after, that the bedroom window had become so bespattered on account of a bird's nest over it, that the lady engaged a workman to remove it, when, to her astonishment as well as joy, the lace which was of considerable length, was found neatly rolled round the inside of the nest, and although a little soiled, was not in the least injured.

A Method of making Hard Black-Lead Drawing Pencils for Artists, &c. By Mr. Cornelius Varley.

These pencils are made of the fine Cumberland black-lead in powder, and shell-lac, melted together by a gentle heat. The compound thus formed is to be repeatedly ground to powder, either by means of a cylindrical file turned swiftly round (such as is used by pin-makers), or by a pestle and mortar; and re-melted, until it has acquired a perfectly uniform consistence; when the mass must be sawn into slips, and glued into cedar mountings, as usual in making black-lead pencils.

These pencils may be made a little harder or softer, by varying the proportions of the materials; although they are not well calculated for very soft ones. The native blacklead, however, is fully sufficient for the latter.

The great advantages of this composition consist in the strength and uniformity of the pencils made therefrom; and in the facility with which the fragments and dust from it may be re-united, to form a fresh mass, as perfect as before.

This composition was invented by Mr. Varley, about the year 1814; but it is now employed by Mr. Banks, of Keswick, to form his hardest pencils, which are excellent; who, however, had received no communication from Mr. Varley on the subject.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—78—

Indian News.

Madras, August 20, 1822.—Contrary to every well founded calculation, another week has passed away, and still we are without News from Europe. No vessel which left England after the 2d of April has yet reached our own port, and it now appears that no public intelligence has been received by the French brig whose arrival at Pondicherry was announced in the *COURIER* of Friday last.

The good people of Edinburgh say the new work by Sir Walter Scott is from the notes of a distinguished person of the 17th century, and is likely to contain many curious anecdotes of the last 30 years of that interesting age.

We proceed now to notice the few local occurrences of the week.

The Public Assembly on Friday evening was better and more fully attended than any entertainment of a similar nature for many years; and we have never witnessed a more general prevalence of hilarity, good humour, and all the pleasing accompaniments of a cheerful Ball Room than on this occasion, which we trust may be considered as the commencement of a series of entertainments of the same description. After the long interval that has elapsed since any Public Amusement has taken place at Madras, it may be expected perhaps that we should give a detailed account of the evening's pleasures; but there is not much variety in an English Ball Room. We may observe generally that there was a spirit of gaiety and liveliness in the scene that does not often characterise an Indian Party, where seriousness and attention to the business and cold formalities of the evening frequently cast gloom and heaviness over that which "should wear a robe of cheerfulness and garb of smiles."

The company assembled at a late hour, and the dance did not commence till near ten o'clock—when it did at length begin, however, the numerous votaries of Torpsichore entered at once with animating spirit into all the mazes of the cheerful country-dance, which displayed with full effect an unusual portion of attraction and beauty in the younger ranks of grace and fashion. This soon gave place to the more pleasing variety and elegance of the Quadrille, and this in its turn was suspended for the grace and voluptuousness of the Spanish dance. With this enchanting variety the happy night quickly passed away, and even the time allotted for refreshments was unwillingly spared by the lovers of the dance.

The Banquet that intervened was alike well managed, and the pleasures of the festive board were unusually enjoyed. The Supper was uncommonly well served and tastefully arranged in a temporary building attached to the elegant mansion where the party was given, and the viands were all unexceptionably excellent. Indeed the zeal of the Stewards to afford satisfaction to the very numerous and brilliant assembly who graced this entertainment was conspicuous in every arrangement; and their polite and unremitting attention to all gave a degree of ease and animation which is alone experienced where all parties feel themselves at home. The happy company prolonged the festivities until a late hour on the following morning, and all departed pleased with their entertainment and anticipating a renewal of similar pleasures; which we have reason to believe will soon be realised.

The next Public amusement will be the Play at the Pantheon, which, as we have already announced, is to be performed on Tuesday next. The entertainments are the Comedy of "*Who wants a Guinea*" and the farce of "*The Jew and the Doctor*."

Our Shipping report for the last week is unusually meagre and uninteresting. The Ship *ROBERTS* from Calcutta the 16th ultimo, came in on Saturday morning, and the homeward-bound Ship *MELLISH*, Captain R. Ford from Calcutta the 13th July also came in at the same time. The *DUKE OF LANCASTER* was still at Saugor on the 3d instant.

The *MELLISH* had a very boisterous passage down the Bay. Off Ganjam she spoke the *ADAMANT* bound for England all well. The *MELLISH* will continue her voyage on the evening of the 23d instant.

The Danish Ship *JOHANNEY MARIA*, Captain Henry Dauntfelt, from Copenhagen 23d December, Cape of Good Hope 21st April, Mauritius 29th June, Trincomallie 35th July, Tranquebar 7th, Portonovo 10th, Cuddalore 15th and Pondicherry 17th Aug. anchored in the Roads yesterday morning but brings no news.

Passenger per Johanney Maria.—Mr. S. Mackintosh and Mr. Bradely.

Passengers per Mellish.—Messrs. C. Oliphant, J. C. Plowden, O. Span, R. D. Pownal and Mr. Shepherd.

The *WINDSOR CASTLE* is loading for London.

His Excellency General Sir Alexander Campbell paid a visit to the Nabob at Chapauk on Sunday, which was returned by His Highness yesterday. The customary ceremonies were observed on these occasions.

The Honorable the Governor and his party were at Ichapoor, all well, on the 4th instant.—*Madras Courier*.

Local Causes of Disease.—The vicinity of the Sunderbunds and other local causes of disease, being aggravated at this period of the year by the exhalations from the large surface of water, often intermixed with the products of vegetation, exposed to the action of the atmosphere, those acquainted with the nature of the country, or who have had much experience in it, regularly expect about this time a certain increase of mortality. From the great number of casualties, (according to our impression) which have been recorded, we have for sometime past been of opinion that the deleterious effect of these combined causes on the human frame, was this season at least fully equal to former years; yet we were in hopes it might pass over without being attended with any extraordinary devastations. Yesterday, however, we learned, that lately that dreadful scourge, Cholera, has manifested itself at Dum-Dum and among the Native population in this City. Within the last 5 days fourteen people have died of this disease within a small circuit of not more than 500 yards in the immediate neighbourhood of Colingah, nearly bordering on the Circular Road; and two more died yesterday morning, making, sixteen in all about that particular spot. The victims are said to be chiefly boys and men in their prime; but no females, as far as is known, have been affected. The distemper proceeds with great rapidity, not more than six or seven hours intervening between the first attack and dissolution. One boy indeed lingered for about 18 hours; but in that particular case laudanum had been administered and afterwards brandy, which although they did not overcome the disease might have had the effect of retarding its progress.

With the liberality displayed by the Inhabitants of Calcutta on a late occasion fresh in our recollection, we do not think it necessary to remind them of their duty should this disease continue its ravages; for where so much sympathy was displayed for those afflicted by a distant misfortune, much more is due to our fellow-citizens, especially when suffering under a calamity in which we may soon all be equally involved. The usual remedies prescribed for this disease being in the possession of almost all European families, they may therefore afford prompt and effectual relief to their poorer neighbours, with little expense or trouble; and thus besides gratifying their own feelings, they will second the benevolent views of our illustrious Ruler, in whose words nearly we may add that Conscience prescribes the extension of gentle, cheering and parental encouragement to the millions whom providence has arrayed around us,—as the support of our ascendancy ought to be the gratitude of the Indian People.—We have heard, since writing the above, that the Epidemic prevails generally among the Native Population, throughout Calcutta and the surrounding country.—*Hurkarn*.

A fatal proof has been afforded of the danger of exposure to the heats of the day and damps of the night, in the recent death of the Surgeon of the H. C. Ship *DUTCHESS OF ATHOL*. This Gentleman, we hear, after being out on a Shooting Party in the Jungles of Saugor, ventured to sleep at night in the open air, and thereby contracted the illness which terminated in his death.

Accounts from Bombay mention that the Season had been unusually unhealthy. The Weather had been remarkably rainy and boisterous, the Sun being obscured for five and six days together.

Letters from Penang state that Mr. Erskine, one of the Members of Council at that Presidency, had been compelled by ill health to proceed to England, and that Mr. Clabley had taken his seat as a Provisional Counsellor. —John Bull.

Steam Boats.

Sir,

To the Editor of the Journal.

In perusing your Paper of this morning, I observed an article on Steam Boats, and as a Lover of Mechanics, I cannot help referring to the third paragraph of your Correspondent's letter, and shall feel obliged by his informing me, how he can apply a Dredging Machine to the proposed vessel, that is to be fitted purposely for towing or carrying Passengers, without destroying the utility of the one for any benefit that may be derived by the other. I am not aware that there is a single vessel in the London River, that is applied to both purposes: and your Correspondent seems to me to be unacquainted with the fact, that the Dredging Boats are very differently constructed from those employed in carrying Passengers.

C.

Public Situations.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,

Your Correspondent "MAGIS AMICA VERITAS," furnishes an additional example that a foolish Friend is oftener more dangerous than an avowed Enemy.

His subject was a bad one, in-as-much as it was tangible by animadversion on more points than one, and bore a great affinity to an old Proverb, "*The more it is stirred,*" &c. &c. &c.

If a man, in the height of his zeal for the public good already holding two very lucrative appointments, and performing the duties of a third without hire, should offer the performance of another arduous and highly responsible duty, perhaps that of an Alderman, or even "*Justice of the Peace*" gratuitously, and without fee or reward, it does not become him, without mature consideration, to resign the discharge of such duties, upon the plea that his other two public appointments so wholly and totally absorb every moment of his time, as to leave him no leisure to do that which he had freely and gratuitously offered. I repeat, "*if*" a man will request the indulgence of being permitted to lay down the duties of an office he voluntarily assumed to fulfil, and give as a plea sufficient, that he cannot attend in consequence of the imperiousness of the demands to discharge the functions of his other situations for which "*he is paid,*" it cannot be looked upon by men of candour, that his conduct is irreprehensible, when he solicits the nomination to a situation of laborious duties, and requiring constant and unremitting assiduity and attention, merely because that situation has a salary somewhat exceeding a thousand or twelve hundred rupees a month attached to it: the thing speaks for itself,—but I suppose "*Let those laugh who win,*" is the order of the day: A Tax Gatherer I think did not enter the list of situations when Aristides the Athenian said, that "the man conferred honor upon the office, not the office upon the man"—that is to say, (and let it be remembered,) in those days, manners and merit made the man. Let Mr. "MAGIS AMICA VERITAS" say no more about the matter. Every thing is fixed; surely those persons who would take unprecedented trouble to attain a benefit, or conspicuous eminence, without circumscribing an overweening appetite for the good things of this world, cannot be supposed to possess such sensitive feelings as to suffer from the remarks which their conduct must necessarily excite from those who make moderation the bounds of their desires, and a faithful and zealous discharge of their duties, their "*being's end and aim.*"

Your's very obediently,

Barrackpore, August 30, 1822.

SERTORIUS.

Adventures of a Dawk Peon.

Sir,

To the Editor of the Journal.

Passing a few days since through the Cossitollah, I saw a piece of paper laying on the ground. I directed my servant to take it up, when, on examination, I found it to be a Petition of a Dawk Peon: as it bore no direction nor had it any clue by which I could have restored it to the writer, will you do me the favour to advertize it in a corner of your wide-spreading Paper, which I think better calculated than the BULL, for affording a chance of the proper owner again possessing a Document perhaps of great importance.—Your's very obediently,

August 29, 1822.

PYKE.

PETITION.

"Your poor Petitioner prays to inform your honor, that in consequence of the very extraordinary figure he cuts when appalled in in his (recently established) uniform, he has been in manifest jeopardy and fear of his life. Having to take Letters to several Gentlemen's houses, he on Thursday last was labouring in his vocation, and had arrived at "*Mr. Tally Ho's,*" for whom there were several Europe Letters: he had no sooner put his foot into the Compound and shewed his large Deer-skin Bag, when he was assailed by eighteen or twenty Dogs, at the head of which were three Dooriahs, exciting them much in the manner your poor Petitioner has sometimes seen the Calcutta Fox-hounds encouraged by the Huntsmen when hunting a Jackall. Your poor Petitioner was tumbled over and over, and touselled most dreadfully at least, for twenty minutes, when he fortunately succeeded in making himself known to be a human creature, whereby he was able to save a remnant of his miserable life, which never was so insupportable as on this day in question. Your poor Petitioner's Deer-skin Bag was devoured, together with a bundle of Letters, by the said Dogs. The said Letters had been a long time in hand, and from being rather greasy, your poor Petitioner thinks that circumstance may have excited the appetite of the Dogs, which in your Petitioner's judgement was very keen. Your unfortunate Petitioner, after this heart-rending treatment, was making the best of his way home to the office, and had comfortably settled his Pagree upon his head, when coming near a number of Boys, who were playing at Puchees by the side of the road, he was alarmed by one of the said Boys calling out "*dekho! dekho! wah Bundah wallah! wah, wah, heeh cheez! kyaah admee hy! Ek to chillumchee oosho sir per ruktaah hy!*" Instantly the Boys with one accord pursued your poor Petitioner, who ran as if he had got a Shytan at his heels, but, lamentable to say that, in his desperate hurry to escape from such a body of tormenting devils, which by your poor Petitioner's guess might have amounted to six hundred and thirty five, he ran against an old woman selling oil at the bottom of Loll Bazar, and kicked his foot clean through a large dubber of oil, whereby your poor Petitioner's left leg is miserably maimed. Your poor Petitioner's hard lot did not end here, for the sudden jerk which coming in contact with the dubber gave him, caused him to take a latitudinal direction, and owing to the amazing force with which your poor Petitioner went, he completely thrust his head through and through a Bheesty Bag full of water, which was being conveyed to a Gentleman's house, on the top of a Bullock. Your poor Petitioner was in consequence caught, and conveyed to a place where they keep all sorts of wild beasts, by the people who saw the occurrence, and your Petitioner was confined for nearly half an hour. Your poor Petitioner has got to pay for the damage done to the Bheesty Bag, and loss of oil, therefore your poor Petitioner hopes your honor will kindly pay the same; and allow your poor Petitioner to dress in the style and manner he was wont to do, and that your honor will be good enough to take away the large Deer-skin Bag, which the people say, is for no other purpose than to conceal any stray thing we may chance to meet; also that the Brass Plate may be taken from our "*Pagrees*" altogether, but should your honor not deem this last request admissible, we all beg your honor to reduce the said plate's size by at least 14 inches in diameter, and your honor's Petitioner will ever pray for plenty of Dawk Travellers, and lots of Europe Letters to your honourable honour, who are, I am sure, my dear Mah and Bap!

Asiatic Society.

A Meeting of the Asiatic Society was held at the Society's Apartments in Chowringhee, on Thursday last, the 29th of August. The Most Noble the Marquis of HASTINGS in the Chair.

At this meeting R. JENKINS, Esq. was duly elected a member of the Society.

Mr. KYN, presented the Jaw-bone of a Whale, and some large Barnacles taken from the bottom of a Ship.

Two curious gold coins, with inscriptions, lately discovered at Batgiry, near Guduk, in Durwar, were laid before the Meeting.

M. DOVAUCEL presented to the Library Mons. CUVIER's work entitled *Regne Animal* in the name of the author.

The three first numbers of a Dictionary, English and Bengalee, by RAM CUMUL SAIN and FELIX CAREY, were presented by the former. A Pamphlet entitled *Observations on Pauperism* was also presented by Major J. S. HARRIOT, the author.

A Letter was read from Mr. ATKIN, Secretary to the Society of Arts, &c. Adelphi, London, presenting the 27th and 39th volumes of their Transactions.

Another letter was read, from the Curators of the Library of the University of Leydon, presenting to the Society, *Specimen of a Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts in the Leyden Academy*.

Mr. GIBBONS presented the first part of a Catalogue of the Books in the Library of the Society, prepared by himself, for which he received the thanks of the meeting.

The Secretary read an Account of a Tour made to lay down the course and levels of the River Sutlej, within the limits of the British Authority, by J. D. HERBERT, in 1819.

The bed of the river Sutlej, in the upper part of its course, which lies entirely within the Snowy range, forms the Pergunnah of Kennour in Bissahir. This tract is contiguous to the Empire of China in one quarter, and in another to the continually increasing territories of the Sikh Chieftain. From the jealousy of the Officers in the frontier the survey terminated at the limit of our Authority, for at Shipkee, the first village of Chinese Tartary, Lieutenant HERBERT was compelled to retrace his steps. The journey commenced at Kotgurh, a small post on the Sutlej. The route was at first South, crossing the Nagkunda ridge, elevated 9,800 feet. From Chepal, in Joubul, the direction of the route changed to N. N. E. passing over a high ridge into the valley of the Pabur. Thence the ascent to, and along, the Chang Sheel ridge continued for about 12 miles, and attained a height of 15,000 feet. Forest was observed to cease about 11,000 feet, at which elevation Lieutenant HERBERT found the juniper, and black and red currant. In Kennour, the villages were found to be not very numerous. Kanum and Soongnam are said to be two of the largest, and contain about a hundred families each. The houses are built of hewn stone, with occasional layers of the Deodar pine. The roofs in the lower part of Kennour are sloping, and formed of shingles, but in the upper part, where violent winds prevail, they are flat; and covered with earth. The Neoz Piae, the seeds of which are excellent, and form a valuable article of export, is not to be found beyond the limits of this tract. The turnip attains great perfection in Kennour and also the apple. The people of Kennour are tall and rather handsome, with expressive countenances, but not so fair as might be expected in so cold a climate. Their language is essentially different from that of all the Tartars, and has even no affinity to the southern mountain dialects. The principal part of them are Hindoos, and Brahmins are their officiating priests, but in some of the villages Buddhism, or the religion of Thibet, obtains. Lieutenant HERBERT never met with a Mountaineer, Hindoo, or Tartar, who had heard the term Thibet. The inhabitants are best known by the name of *Bhootas*.

At Shipkee the width of the Sutlej is 67 feet, and its depth about 6, the elevation 9,107 feet. The bed is a good deal obstructed by rocks below Shipkee, and a little above Dabbling there is a small fall. At Wongtoo the width is 100 feet. The fall from Pooree to Wongtoo is 1337 feet, or 51 per mile. Thence to Kotgurh it is 59 feet per mile, and to Soonee 20 feet per mile.

A memorandum of the Geology of Bundelkand and Jubbulpore, by Dr. ADAM, was also read by the Secretary. The observations it contains were originally intended to accompany a series of Geological Specimens, now in the Museum of the Society, for the purpose of illustrating their localities, or their geognostic and geographical situations. These specimens comprise all the rocks met with between the Jumna and the Nerbudda, by the route of Banda, Lohargong, Bellary, and Jubbulpore, commencing with the hills in Bundelkand. The Diamond mines at Punnah are said to be mere narrow pits, four or five feet deep according to the distance of the subjacent rock from the surface, and dug out of a

ferruginous gravelly soil, of a dark brown, or blackish colour, like hepatic Cinnabar. When Dr. ADAM arrived at the ground, where the mining was carried on, two men were engaged in searching for the precious mineral. The operation is extremely simple. The soil, as it is brought from the neighbouring pit, is thrown into a square excavation in the ground about two or three feet deep, the sides of which have been well beaten to prevent the gravel from adhering to them. A quantity of water being added a man steps into the place with a small hoe, and mixes the whole together, using his hands also for that purpose, and throwing away all the larger pebbles. This operation being continued for some time, the water is thrown out, by means of a small wicker basket, and carries with it the sand, leaving the gravel behind. After repeated applications and discharges of water, the gravel is removed into another small basin, of a circular figure, when it receives the last washing. From thence it is conveyed to a large floor on the surface of the ground made of hardened earth, and there left to dry. The concluding operation consists in a minute examination of this dry gravel by a person acquainted with the external characters of the jewel in a rough state. From the inquiries that were made, Diamond mining at Punnah does not appear to be a profitable pursuit. A fourth part of the produce is paid to the Rajah of the district. Dr. ADAM thinks that the bottom of the sandstone hills in Bundelkand are admirably fitted for the culture of the vine, and should this ever be attempted on a large scale in India, perhaps no better situation could be selected for the purpose.

The Secretary then read a *Brief Sketch of the Zingari, or the Gypsy Tribe*, by Major JOHN STAPLES HARRIOT, of the 2d Regiment of Native Infantry, to which is added a vocabulary of the Gypsy dialect, compared with the Hindee, Persian, and Sanscrit languages. This sketch was written during a residence in North Hampshire in the years 1819 and 1820, there being a race of vagrants, of the Gypsy class in the neighbourhood of Overton where the author resided. This wandering tribe appears to have been first noticed in Europe about the year 1400, or soon after. In Persia a similar fraternity bears the appellation of *Kaules*, whence it is supposed they come from Kaubul. In India the same race bears the name of Nuth. In the province of Khorasun the Gypsies are said to be numerous, and are called Karashmar. Major HARRIOT in returning to India through Persia, met with the Post Laureate, FOTTEH ALI KHAN of Tehran, who told him that according to the best information he could collect, 4000 of the *Loolee* class were brought into Persia 1400 years ago by BAIRAM GHOR, a musician, from Caubul, and thence they were subsequently scattered over Iran, Syria, and Egypt. They are said to be called in the province of Azerbaijan both *Loolee* and *Kaulee*, indiscriminately. The Nuth in India, the *Kaulee* in Persia, and the *Gypsy* in Europe lead the same lazy and wandering life, they practice the same facts of dexterity, music and palmistry. In Beeloochistan, a province bordering upon the Indus, there is a similar tribe called *Looree*, which may be a corruption of *Loolee*. But the most probable derivation is from their usual profession *Lohari*, blacksmiths or tinkers. They are notorious for kidnapping and pilfering, and keep bears and monkeys. With regard to this singular tribe, says Major HARRIOT, whether in England, Russia, Sweden, Spain, Bohemia, Turkey, Persia, Syria, or Egypt, we may, through language alone, still trace, with general accuracy, their original feature and descent, altho' every memorial, or vestige of tradition respecting their history be lost.

There appears to be three casts of the Gypsy tribe at Baroda in Guzerat. The Kolati, Kanjara, and Nuth, none of whom know the original country of their ancestors. All three dance on ropes, &c. A few of the Kanjaras are fortunetellers and astrologers, and all the three are supposed to understand, or rather to be imbued with Jadoo, the *mylaim*, without which it is supposed they could not perform their feats of activity. Every detachment of each cast has a head or chief, and they settle their disputes by Punchayet.—*Government Gazette*.

Death.

It is with the sincerest concern we have to state that the Venerable H. L. LORINO, D. D. Archdeacon of Calcutta, departed this life last night at about 10 or 11 o'clock. This is a most awful, sudden and lamentable event. The Archdeacon, we have been told, was in apparent good health up to two o'clock P. M. yesterday, about which time he was attacked with Cholera, and in the course of a few hours became a corpse. He was a most exemplary character in every respect, and was esteemed and beloved by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance or friendship. The remains of the Archdeacon are to be removed for interment this evening from his residence in Chowringhee.—*India Gazette*.

HIGH WATER AT CALCUTTA THIS-DAY.

	H	M
Morning,	8	0
Evening,	8	5

Answer to "Riddle me this,"

Which appeared in the Calcutta Journal of the 4th instant.

The cork tree arises like mortals from earth,
And Spain is the soil of its commonest birth;
Its bark, from this tree, the sharp steel doth divide
Which to uses important to man is applied;
In form of a life-boat, how honor'd! to save
Who, unaided, had sunk in a watery grave!
As a buoy, from sharp rocks or dread quicksands to guide
And safety to life and to fortune provide!
When England her navies far Northward doth send,
The sides of her vessels from Ice to defend!
To line the damp walls, as to Spaniards is known,
And give comfort and warmth to the coldness of stone!
These—and more, are its honors—nor let it complain,
If used sometimes for purposes humble or vain,
Its merits as great, and as useful its work
Though reduced to the form of a poor bottle-cork.

August 4 1822.

H.

Register of the Pluviometer for August.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Days.	Inches.	Sir,
1	.10	I send you the Register of the Pluviometer for another month, and as the rainy season is more than half over, I shall not have occasion to forward to you above one or two more.
2	.27	The blanks in the second column, denote that no rain fell during the preceding twenty-four hours.
3	.11	The dots opposite the 12, 19, 23 days, mean that the quantities which fell on those days were too small to be measured.
4		
5	.02	July and August are considered to be the most rainy months. The quantity however which fell last month, bears but a small proportion to the rain of July. I believe many of the showers were very partial.
6	.54	
7	.20	
8	.40	
9		
10		
11		I have for some time past made use of two Pluviometers. It guards against accidents, and where the observer has not the command of a very open situation, it is in some degree necessary to have two or three of them in different parts of the premises.
12	.46	
13	.23	
14	.70	
15	.22	
16	.10	In the Nouveau Dictionnaire d' Histoire Naturelle, it is mentioned, that the rain-gage which has been long used at the observatory at Paris, is a cylindrical vessel graduated on the inside into inches and lines. This is the most simple kind of construction. Such a one might easily be made here, and would answer where much exactness is not required, I should be unwilling to use it the whole year through, because in some months the evaporation is so quick, that the quantity indicated by it would probably be much too small.
17	.26	
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24	.73	
25	.34	
26	.01	I do not recollect to have seen any comparative statement of the annual quantity of rain which has fallen in different parts of India.
27	.38	
28		
29	.43	Rain in July 15.09 inches.
30	.11	Rain in August 5.63 inches.
31		

Height of the Thermometer in an Easterly room in August.

Lowest,.... 86° | Highest,.... 86½°

Chowringhee, September 1, 1822.

A. B.

BAZAR RATES, SEPTEMBER 4, 1822.

	BUY....	SELL
Remittable Loans,.....Rs.	19 4	18 12
Unremittable ditto,.....	11 4	10 14
Bills of Exchange on the Court of Directors, for } 12 Months, dated 31st of December 1821,.. }	26 0	25 0
Ditto, for 12 months, dated 30th of June 1822,..	23 0	23 0
Ditto, for 18 months, dated 30th of April,.....	22 0	21 0
Bank Shares,.....	4150 0	4050 0
Spanish Dollars, per 100,.....	205 8	205 0
Notes of Good Houses, for 6 months, bearing Interest, at 6 per cent.		
Government Bills, Discount.....	at 2-4 per cent.	
Loans upon Deposit of Company's Paper, for 1 to 3 months,.....	4 per cent.	

Commercial Reports.

(From the Calcutta Exchange Price Current of yesterday.)

	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.
Cotton, Jalore,..... per maund	14 0	a	14 4	
Cutchoura,.....	11 8	a	12 4	
Grain, Rice, Patna,.....	2 2	a	2 8	
Patchery, 1st,.....	2 4	a	2 8	
Ditto, 2d,.....	1 14	a	2 0	
Moongy, 1st,.....	1 6	a	1 7	
Ditto, 2d,.....	1 5	a	1 6	
Ballum, 1st,.....	1 7	a	1 8	
Wheat, Dooda,.....	1 8	a	1 10	
Gram, Patna,.....	1 0	a	1 4	
Dhall, Urruhr, good,.....	1 7	a	1 8	
Saltpetre, Culme, 1st sort,.....	6 0	a	6 4	
2d sort,.....	5 0	a	5 8	
3d sort,.....	4 0	a	5 5	

Indigo.—We have not heard of many transactions in this during the week—we know of a small sale of fine Jessore, about 120 maunds, in bond, at 325 rupees per maund, and two or three small parcels of prime Tirhoot, at 290 to 295 rupees.

Cotton.—We have no alterations to state in this, and know of no sales in it lately for exportation—at Mirzapore, on the 27th of August, new Bandah was quoted at 17-10, Jalore at 16 6, and Cutchoura at 14-9 per local maund—at Jeagunge, on the 27th of August, Jalore was stated at 13-4 to 13-8, and Cutchoura at 12 4 to 12-6 per maund—sales during the week 7000 maunds, 1,500 of which was for Calcutta, and the rest for country consumption—stock 65,000 maunds.

Saltpetre and Sugar.—Continue in fair demand, and steady at our quotations—speculations to a considerable extent have been made in the former during the week.

Piece Goods.—Have been rather dull this week.—The Americans are the only purchasers now in the market—Luckipore and Gooripore Bafias, Tandah, Allahabad Sannahs, and Beerboom Gurrahs, are rather looking up.

Grain.—No sales of consequence have taken place in this during the week—Moongy Rice, Guncajalla Wheat, and Patna Gram, have suffered a decline of about one anna per maund, since our last.

Lac-Dye.—The demand for this has been very limited lately—there has been some inquiry after it this week, and the finer qualities are likely to improve.

Metals.—Tutenague and Spelter continue steady, and rate a shade higher—sales in the former have been effected during the week, at our quotations—Lead, Steel and Iron are dull—Sheet-Copper is going off in small parcels, at our quotations, and even higher has been paid selecting light and heavy, according to use, for particular purposes.

Europe Goods.—The market is now completely overstocked, and we question whether even our low quotations are obtainable, except on well assorted and low laid in Invoices—Silk Hosiery, about prime cost; Cotton 25 to 30 per cent. discount; some Muslins will still bring prime cost; coarse Cutlery about 5 per cent. advance, and Glass-ware, rough manufacture, in spare Shades, &c. cheaply Invoiced, may probably bring about 20 to 25 per cent. advance.

Freight to London.—May be stated at £ 4 to £ 6 per Ton.

Note.—It being difficult to quote with preciseness the prices of the following Articles, the mode of stating generally, whether they are at an advance or discount, has been adopted, as being sufficient to give a tolerably correct idea of the Market.—The Exchange being at Par.

References.—(P. C.) Prime Cost of the Article as Invoiced at the Manufacturer's prices, exclusive of Freight and Charges.—(A.) Advance on the same.—(D.) Discount.

Birmingham Hard-ware,.....	10 a	15 per cent. D.
Broad Cloth, fine,.....P. C.	0 a	10 per cent. A.
Broad Cloth, coarse,.....P. C.	10 a	15 per cent. D.
Flannels,.....	25 a	3 per cent. D.
Hats, Bicknell's,.....	15 a	20 per cent. A.
Chintz,.....	5 a	10 per cent. D.
Cutlery,.....P. C.	0 a	25 per cent. D.
Earthen-ware,.....	25 a	30 per cent. D.
Glass-ware,.....P. C.	0 a	10 per cent. D.
Window Glass,.....P. C.	0 a	15 per cent. D.
Hosiery,.....	10 a	25 per cent. D.
Muslins Assorted,.....	20 a	30 per cent. D.
Oilman's Stores,.....P. C.	0 a	6 per cent. D.
Stationery,.....P. C.	0 a	10 per cent. A.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—77—

Government Orders.

MILITARY.

General Orders, by His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General in Council.

FORT WILLIAM; AUGUST 23, 1832.

1st. It is with singular concern, that the Most Noble the Governor General in Council feels himself compelled, to subject a considerable part of the 4th Regiment Light Cavalry, to disgrace and ignominy, but their conduct on the 1st day of last October in the affair with the Cavalry of Kishore Sing, renders it indispensable.

2nd. His Lordship in Council is imperatively called on to inflict exemplary punishment on this occasion, not only from the duty he owes to the State, but in order to blot out from the Rolls of the Bengal Army the Names of Men who are a reproach to it, and whose continuance in it would doubtless be felt by that Army with the keenest regret.

3rd. It was not until lately that Government became minutely acquainted with all the circumstances of this affair, and then His Lordship in Council lost no time in taking the necessary steps through His Excellency the Commander in Chief, of causing an investigation into the particulars.

4th. It has been substantiated, that three Troops of the Regiment reined up as soon as they approached the Enemy, by a few of whose skirmishers alone they were attacked, and that they left their European Officers unsupported, in consequence of which Lieutenants Clerk and Reade were cut to pieces, and the Commanding Officer, Major Ridge, was severely wounded whilst exhibiting to his Detachment the most gallant example.

5th. A Special Committee having been ordered to assemble at Neemuch to inquire minutely into this disastrous and disgraceful affair, the result of that enquiry demands that the Native Commissioned, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Privates in the Field that day, with the 3d, 4th, and 5th Troops of the 4th Regiment Light Cavalry, whether borne on the strength of those Troops, or merely doing duty with them in the charge made in pursuit of the enemy on the 1st of October, should be immediately dismissed from the Service.

6th. From this Shame and Punishment are to be excepted Meer Musnud Ali Havildar Major, and Sheikh Nader Ali Trumpet Major, who are both promoted by Government to the rank of Subadar, in reward for their gallant and attached conduct in support of their Commanding Officer in the field, as well as for the fearless honesty and truth with which they gave their Evidence at the Court of Enquiry.

7th. The dismissal of the three Troops is to be carried into effect in the most impressive manner, as early as may be convenient after the receipt of these Orders at Neemuch, and His Excellency the Commander in Chief will be pleased to cause immediate measures to be taken, for drafting from the Cavalry generally, proportions of Native Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers, each to be advanced in rank one step, sufficient for the formation of three Troops, in lieu of the Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers of the three now ordered to be dismissed from the Service.

8th. No promotion of consequence to take place in the remaining Troops of the 4th Regiment, except those of the Havildar Major and Trumpet Major before directed, as the whole Native portion of the Corps must in this respect at least, participate in the misconduct of so great a part of the Regiment.

9th. The Native commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers who may be drafted into the 4th Light Cavalry, will be permitted to take with them any of their Relations or Connections, Troopers in their present Regiment, who may wish to accompany them in that rank, and who will accordingly be placed at the head of the List of Privates in the three New Troops, agreeably to their standing in the Service.

10th. It is most positively directed, that none of the parties now ordered to be dismissed, shall ever be re-enlisted into any Regiment in the Service.

11th. The Men who have been transferred to the Invalid Establishment from those Troops since the affair of the 1st of October last, and who were present on the day, are to be struck off that Establishment forthwith.

12th. Sheikh Rajeeb Alee Subadar of the 6th Troop, will also be dismissed the Service, for having sworn that, the Troop, left as a reserve during the Charge, "did not retire from the place on which it was left by Major Ridge," tho' the contrary is distinctly in evidence by the concurring testimony of two European Officers.

13th. The Most Noble the Governor General in Council commands that these Orders shall be most fully explained to every Native Corps and Detachment in the Service, at three successive Parades to be ordered expressly for the purpose.

14th. His Excellency the Commander in Chief will be pleased to issue such Supplementary Orders as may be necessary, to carry the intention of Government into effect.

Surgeon Charles Stuart is permitted, at his own request, to resign the Service of the Hon'ble Company.

The Officer Commanding the Ramnagar Local Battalion is permitted, until further Orders, to keep up the 8 Companies of his Corps to the Establishment of 80 Privates per Company, by recruiting from any Hindoostanies who may offer their Services.

Officers holding Commissions which are either cancelled or altered by one of anterior date, or likely to be so, are not in future to return them to the Secretary in the Military Department.—As Commissions are issued Monthly for all the Promotions or Alterations of Rank which take place, the return of the Old Commission is useless in any case and troublesome in all.—The Fees are only payable on the first issue of the Commission, however often it may be cancelled by the assignment of back rank, and the parties receiving such corrected Commissions should destroy the old ones.

WM. CASEMENT, Lieut. Col. Sec. to Govt. Mil. Dept.

General Orders by the Commander in Chief, Head Quarters, Calcutta; August 29, 1832.

The undermentioned Officers have Leave of Absence.

2d Battalion 15th Regiment,—Ensign Townsend, from 15th September, to 15th March 1833, to visit the Presidency, on Medical Certificate.

1st Battalion 13th Regiment,—Brevet-Captain J. Todd, from 28th August, to 29th September, in extension, on Medical Certificate.

Head Quarters, Calcutta; August 29, 1832.

Lieutenant C. H. Marley is appointed Adjutant to the 1st Battalion 14th Regiment Native Infantry from the 1st proximo, vice Brevet Captain Penny permitted to resign the appointment.

The undermentioned Officers have Leave of Absence.

2d Battalion 29th Regiment,—Lieutenant E. Herring from 25th Sept. to 25th March, 1833, on Medical Certificate, to visit the Presidency.

2d Battalion 2d Regiment,—Brevet-Captain Chalmers, from 26th August to 10th December to enable him to join his Corps.

Head Quarters, Calcutta; August 30, 1832.

The Regulation prescribing the Uniform to be worn by Officers in receipt of Brigadier's Allowances and specially appointed to Commands (vide General Orders 30th December 1812), is to be considered applicable to the following Officers:

The Officer Commanding Nagpore Subsidiary Force.

The Officer Commanding Malwah Force.

The Officer Commanding Rajpootana Force.

The Officer Commanding the Advanced Corps in Meywar.

The Officer Commanding the Eastern Frontier.

The Agents for Gun Carriages at the Presidency and at Fatty Garh, and for the manufacture of Gun Powder at Allahabad and Ichapore, are to wear the Uniform laid down for Commissaries of Ordnance with the exception of Buttons which are to be plain gilt. Field Officers holding those situations to wear Two Epaulets.

Assistant Surgeon Donald Campbell is appointed to act as Surgeon to His Excellency the Commander in Chief, vice Macra.

The undermentioned Officers have of Leave Absence:

General Staff,—Brigade Major Faithfull, from 10th September to 10th November on Medical Certificate, to visit the Presidency.

2d Light Cavalry,—Captain A. Eldridge, from 15th October to 15th February 1833, to visit the Presidency, preparatory to applying for leave to resign the Service.

Head Quarters, Calcutta; August 31, 1832.

Captain Scott, of the Artillery Regiment is relieved from the General Court Martial of which Lieutenant-Colonel Shawe of the 87th Regiment is President; and Captain Comyn, of the 2d Battalion 7th Native Infantry, is appointed a Member thereof in his room.

The following Postings and Removals to take place in the Regiment of Artillery.

Captain P. G. Mathison to the 3d Company 3d Battalion.

Captain C. P. Kennedy, from the 3d Company 3d Battalion, to the 2d Company 1st Battalion.

1st-Lieutenant G. Twemlow, from the 2d Company 3d Battalion, to the 6th Company 3d Battalion.

1st-Lieutenant G. G. Deane, from the 8th Company 4th Battalion, to the 1st Company 4th Battalion.

1st-Lieutenant S. W. Bennett, from the 7th Company 4th Battalion, to the 8th Company 4th Battalion.

1st-Lieutenant R. C. Dickson, from the 1st Company 4th Battalion, to the 6th Company 2d Battalion.

2d-Lieutenant H. Garbett, from the 7th Company 1st Battalion, to the 4th Company 3d Battalion.

Lieutenants Denness, Bennett, and Garbett will join when their respective Companies reach the Stations at which they now are.

1st-Lieutenant Charles Smith, of the 1st Company 2d Battalion of Artillery, will continue to do duty with the Artillery at Agra, until the arrival of his Company from Nusseerabad.

The undermentioned Cornets and Ensigns are directed to proceed by water and do duty with the following Corps:—

Cornets Jackson, A. M. Key, and Master, 1st Light Cavalry, Sultanspore Benares.

Ensign A. L. Barwell, 1st Bat. 13th Native Infantry, Midnapore; Ensigns H. Gordon, J. Dyson, E. D. Townshend, J. Craigie, F. Corner, C. H. Boisragon, and D. Ross, 1st Battalion 23d Native Infantry, Barrackpore.

Ensign R. Nelson, 2d Battalion 20th Native Infantry, Barrackpore. Ensigns H. Smith, R. Crofton, E. Jackson, G. Byron, J. C. Lumsdaine, H. Lyell, C. R. Eyre, and O. B. Thomas, 2d Battalion 10th Native Infantry, Berhampore.

Ensign W. J. B. Kayvett, 1st Bat. 29th Native Infantry, Benares. Ensign Maclean, of the 2d Battalion 5th Native Infantry, is appointed to the charge of the young Officers proceeding by water to Berhampore and Benares; and directed to take the necessary steps, in communication with the Superintending Officer of Cadets, for expediting their departure from the Presidency—reporting the date thereof and transmitting Weekly Reports of Progress to the Adjutant General's Office, for the information of the Commander in Chief.

Cornet Dawkins, 2d Light Cavalry, is appointed to do duty with Baddeley's Horse, and will proceed to Neemuch, and join the Corps as soon as the season permits.

The undermentioned Officers have leave of absence:—European Regiment.—Brevet Captain M. S. Hogg, from 1st September to 1st November, to remain at the Presidency, on Medical Certificate.

2d Battalion 17th Regiment.—Captain A. Dick, from 26th August to 15th October, to remain at the Presidency, on Medical Certificate.

Artillery, Cawnpore.—Mr. J. Forsyth, Assistant Surgeon, from 1st October, to 1st January 1823, to visit Dinapore, on private affairs.

1st Light Cavalry.—Cornet G. C. S. Master, from the 1st September, to 1st January, 1823, to visit Dacca.

Head-Quarters, Calcutta; Sept. 2, 1822.

At an European General Court Martial, re-assembled at Fort William on Tuesday the 27th August 1822, of which Lieutenant-Colonel M. Shawe, C.B., His Majesty's 87th Regiment, is President, Captain, Cathcart Methven, of the 20th Regiment Native Infantry, was arraigned upon the undermentioned Charge; viz.

"For having caused to be Printed and having Circulated the Copy of an Official Letter from the Deputy Adjutant General, containing a Decision by the Commander in Chief that the letters between him (Captain Methven) and Captain Seppings of the same Regiment should be with drawn and the subject be set at rest; a decision which virtually forbade the wider promulgation of the matters in dispute; the same being a deliberate disobedience of the order expressed in that letter."

Upon which Charge the Court came to the following decision: Finding—"The Court having maturely considered what has been brought forward on the Prosecution and on the Defence, are of Opinion that the Prisoner Captain Methven is Guilty of having caused to be Printed and having Circulated the Copy of an Official Letter, containing a Decision by the Commander in Chief that the letters between him (Captain Methven) and Captain Seppings, of the same Regiment, should be withdrawn."

"The same being a deliberate disobedience of the Order of His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

Sentence.—"That the Prisoner, Captain Methven, be severely reprimanded at such time and in such manner as His Excellency the Commander in Chief shall see fit."

Approved and Confirmed, (Signed) HASTINGS.

Remarks by His Excellency the Most Noble the Commander in Chief.

As the above just Censure will be recorded in all the Orderly Books, the Commander in Chief does not deem it necessary to add any more particular reprehension.

Captain Methven is released from arrest and directed to return to his Duty.

The leave of absence granted in General Orders of the 1st ultimo, to Lieutenant Bignell 1st Battalion 8th Regiment, is to commence from the 3d instant, instead of the date therein specified.

The leave granted to Lieutenant Wright, of the 2d Battalion 12th Native Infantry, in General Orders of the 18th July, is cancelled at the request of that Officer.

The undermentioned officers have Leave of Absence:

1st Battalion 15th Regiment.—Lieutenant McSherry, from 1st Sept. to 1st Oct. in extension, on Medical Certificate.

General Staff.—Captain Franklin, Assistant Quarter Master General, from 20th Sept to 20th Jan. 1823, to visit the Presidency, preparatory to applying for Furlough to Europe.

W. L. WATSON, Acting Adj. Genl. of the Army.

Head-Quarters, Calcutta; August 26, 1822.

The Most Noble the Commander in Chief in India is pleased to make the following Promotion and Appointments, until his Majesty's pleasure shall be known.

4th Light Dragoons.—Cornet Archibald Edmond Bromwick, from the 17th Light Dragoons, to be Cornet, vice Edmund Knox who exchanges, 14th July, 1822.

17th Light Dragoons.—Cornet Edmond Knox, from the 4th Light Dragoons, to be Cornet, vice Archibald E. Bromwick who exchanges, 13th July 1822.

34th Foot.—Ensign John Stoddard, to be Lieutenant without purchase, vice Mand Simmons, deceased, 3d August, 1822.

Henry Dallas, Gent. to be Ensign without purchase, vice Stoddard promoted, ditto.

Memorandum.—The appointment of William Whitaker, Gent. to be Cornet in the 8th Dragoons, vice Spooner, as announced in General Orders of the 27th of April last, has not taken place.

Head-Quarters, Calcutta; August 27, 1822.

His Majesty has been pleased to make the following Promotions and Appointments.

4th Light Dragoons.—Assistant Surgeon George Richmond, from Half Pay 5th Foot to be Assistant Surgeon, vice Robert Greig, M. D. who exchanges, 28th Feb. 1822.

13th Light Dragoons.—Assistant Surgeon Robert Shean, from the 34th Foot to be Assistant Surgeon, vice McGregor, deceased, Ditto.

1st Foot.—Lieutenant Joshua John Pouden, from Half Pay 55th Foot to be Lieutenant (paying the difference) vice Everett, appointed to the 33d Foot, 14th Feb. 1822.

17th Foot.—George Walter Story, Gent. to be Ensign without purchase, vice Moucrieffe, whose Appointment has not taken place, 7th Feb. 1822.

20th Foot.—Lieutenant Frederick Croad from Half Pay 60th Foot to be Lieutenant (paying the difference) vice Hemmans, appointed to the 79th Foot, 7th Feb. 1822.

Lieut. Chas. Gordon Urquhart from Half Pay Rifle Brigade, to be Lieutenant, vice Sutherland appointed to the 92d Foot, 21st Feb. 1822.

30th Foot.—Lieut. Joseph Thompson, from Half Pay, 20th Foot, to be Lieutenant, vice Sutherland appointed to the 41st Foot, 26th Feb. 1822.

34th Foot.—Lieut. John Huddleston, to be Captain by purchase, vice Fancourt who retires, 26th Feb. 1822.

Hospital Assistant Thomas Teeren, to be Assistant Surgeon, vice Shean appointed to the 13th Light Dragoons, 28th Feb. 1822.—This Cancels the appointment of Asst. Surg. McMann, from 46th, vice Shean, and the appointment of Supp. Asst. Surg. John Campbell, M. D. to be Asst. Surg. in the 45th, vice McMann, removed to the 34th.

47th Foot.—Lieut. Thomas Swayne from Half Pay, York Light Infantry Volunteers, to be Lieutenant, vice Charles M'Donald, who exchanges receiving the difference, 14th February, 1822.

54th Foot.—Ensign George William Malin, from Half Pay, 58th Foot, to be Ensign, vice George Campbell who exchanges, 7th February 1822.

59th Foot.—Brevet Lieutenant Colonel George Warren Walker to be Lieutenant Colonel, without purchase, vice McLeod, deceased, 14th February 1822.—This Cancels the Promotion of Bt. Lt. Col. Tidy from 14th Foot, vice McLeod, and the Appointment of Bt. Lt. Col. Doyle from Half Pay to be Major in the 14th, vice Tidy.

Brevet Major George Halford, to be Major, vice Walker, ditto.

69th Foot.—Gentleman Cadet Hon'ble Richard Hare, from the Royal Military College to be Ensign by purchase, vice Wetherall promoted in the 42d Foot, 10th January, 1822.

87th Foot.—Lieut. James Bowes, to be Adjutant, vice Carrol promoted 19th October, 1820.

89th Foot.—Assistant Surgeon Patrick Pope from Half Pay, 57th Foot, to be Assistant Surgeon, vice Michael Dugan who exchanges, 28th February, 1822.

Head-Quarters, Calcutta; August 29, 1822.

The Most Noble the Commander in Chief in India is pleased to make the following Promotion and Appointment, until His Majesty's pleasure shall be known.

1st Foot.—Lieut. Hugh Gray, from the 53d Foot, to be Lieutenant, vice Stanhope Bruce who exchanges, 23d July, 1822.

17th Foot.—Ensign George Dobson Young, to be Lieutenant without purchase, vice William Cary removed to the 41st Foot, 12th August, 1822. Martin Thomas West, Gent. to be Ensign without purchase, vice George Dobson Young, promoted, ditto.

53th Foot.—Lient. Stanhope Bruce, from the 1st Foot, to be Lieutenant, vice Hugh Gray who exchanges, 23d July, 1822. W. S. Moncrieffe, Gent. to be Ensign without purchase, vice D. M. Byrne promoted, 26th August, 1822.

87th Foot.—William Smyth, Gent. to be Ensign without purchase, vice Robert Williams, deceased, 11th August, 1822.

Memorandum.—Ensign Moncrieffe, 53d Regiment, is directed to do duty with the 17th Foot at Fort William, until further Orders.

Head Quarters, Calcutta; August 30, 1822.

The Leave of Lieutenant Cooper, of the 11th Dragoons, is extended for two months from the 20th proximo.

Lient. Anson, of the 11th Dragoons, has an extension of Leave of Absence for one month from this date, with permission to remain at the Presidency.

Paymaster Mathews, of the 14th Foot has Leave to visit the Presidency on his Private Affairs, and to be absent on that account from the 15th of October to the 1st of July next.

Head Quarters, Calcutta; September 1, 1822.

1. Adverting to the approaching Departure from Cawnpore of the 8th Dragoons, preparatory to its Embarkation for England, the Most Noble the Commander in Chief is pleased to direct, that the Volunteer ing from that Corps for the 4th and 16th Dragoons, agreeably to the instructions detailed in General Orders, Nos. 2549 and 2580 of the 15th March, and 26th April last, shall take place at the present Station of the Corps on the following days, viz. the 15th, 16th and 17th instant.

2. Brevet Captain Cortlandt of the 8th Dragoons is appointed by His Lordship to receive under his care the men who may Volunteer for the 16th Dragoon, and he will remain in Charge of them at Cawnpore until further Orders.

3. Such men as may make choice of the 4th Dragoons, are to accompany the 8th Dragoons to Berhampore, whence they will be expedited to Bombay in due time.

4. The Acting Pay Master of the 8th Dragoons will have placed at his Command, the means of paying the authorized Bounty which is to be delivered to the men immediately upon their being attested.

5. The Volunteers are to be inspected by a Committee of three Medical Officers, of which the Acting Surgeon of the 8th Dragoons is to be one, and no man is to be passed, who is not in every respect efficient, and perfectly fit for Service.

6. The Boys who have been enlisted by Special Authority, may accompany their Fathers or Friends to the Regts. of which they may make choice, and upon receipt at the Adjutant General's Office of a Descriptive Roll, they will be transferred accordingly in General Orders. These Boys it is to be understood, are not entitled to any Bounty unless they have passed the age of 18, when of course they are to be considered upon a footing with the other unlimited Service Soldiers of the Regt. and may transfer their Services in like manner, receiving the established Bounty.

Head Quarters, Calcutta; September 2, 1822.

Lient. Taylor of H. M. 38th Regt. having just been reported Sick. Lient. Child of the 24th Foot will do duty with the detail arrived from Madras for the 38th Regt., and will proceed with it by water to Berhampore.

After the men shall have joined the 38th Regt. Lient. Child will return to Calcutta at his earliest convenience.

By Order of the Most Noble the Commander in Chief,

THOS. McMAHON, Col. A. G.

Nautical Notices.

Ships under Despatch for England.—Ship KENT, for London via Mauritius, to sail on the 7th instant.—Ship NANCY, for London via Cape, about the 20th instant.—Ship ISABELLA, for London via St. Helena and Gibraltar, about the 25th instant.

Marriage.

At Cawnpore, on the 30th of July, at the Church Bungalow, by the Reverend H. L. WILLIAMS, Mr. WILLIAM GEE, to ELIZA MATILDA, the eldest Daughter of Mr. HENRY ORDE, Merchant.

Births.

At Moozafferpoor, on the 27th ultimo, the Lady of W. FANE, Esq. of a Son.

At Patna, on the 28th ultimo, the Lady of WIGRAM MONEY, Esq. of a Son.

India

(From yesterday's Government Gazette.)

SEVENTH CANTO.

Not (as we write on India) old Civilians
To multiply their useless hoards of riches,
Nor calomelizing Qui Hys (oh the silly ones!)
For a return of health and—savory dishes,
Curries, pillaws, cabobs, and pickled fishes,
Nor Officers for Army augmentations
After a lot of pshaws! odds bobs! and pishes!
Nor, prowling out for theft and peculations.
Hungry Ram Johnnies for new green-horn importations.

II.

Not lovely Spinsters, fresh and new imported,
From England by the very latest fleet,
To be admired, and idolized and courted
By handsome sparks or in or out of debt,
Or rich Nabobs on loveliness sharp set,
Nor these alone or even all together
More pant and languish, I would lay a bet,
(With skins all tanned and pale like yellow leather)
Than we poor dried-up Asiatics for Cold Weather.

III.

Indeed it is a sudden alteration
From sudorific temp'rature of air,
To moistless pores and pulse of moderation,
Fahrenheit's Thermometers the change declare,
The quicksilver comes rattling down the stair
From ninety-six at once to forty-seven,
The clouds disperse, the sky is clear and fair,
And from the north chill blows the breath of Heaven
('Twas bitter cold in eighteen hundred and eleven).

IV.

There was a comet that year I remember
That made a huge combustion with his tail,
Clearly observed from April to September,
Thrashing the milky way with meteor flail,
They said it melted icebergs, that a gale
Drove here a polar breeze for us to share it,
And that its ripening influence did prevail
Over the grapes—when wine's good, we compare it
To comet-year Barsac, Hock, glorious Port and Claret.

V.

I knew a man of bulk the most enormous,
Living not quite a stadium from the Town,
Who used to slumber like a winter dormouse
The whole hot season, and would, yawning own
('Twas a cant saying) he was quite done brown,
That is, well basted like a roasted chicken,
But when the fresh North East Monsoon was known
To've set in steadily,—he'd fall to kicking,
Dancing and capering lightly every day the week in.

VI.

As if he had been bitten by Tarantulas,
Or else inoculated by St. Vitus,
How he would hop about and laugh, and pant, alas!
His limbs up-jerking, funny to the sight as
A merry Andrew at a fair, and quite as
Supple as some of your odd Scaramouches;
But then again when Summer came, you might as
Well have awaked the dead by mortal touches,
As rouse my altered friend from his soft downy couches.

VII.

Calcutta! fairest of Metropolises,
City of Palaces!—of Gunga's banks
The highest gem—whose hem her water kisses,
Tho' built and dwelt in by deluded ranks,
To teach them better will they give us thanks?
How gloriously they look upon the stream
Thy open squares, broad streets, and formal tanks,
Thy Writer's Buildings of a length extreme,
Thy Custom House and Ships that floating forests seem.

VIII.

Oh! thou bright City of—veranda'd houses
Italianized by rows of goose-quill columns,
Unarchitectural, that oft arouses
Comparison with famed Palladio's volumes,

And his too—that great builder—what d' ye call'em's
I cannot recollect—not Major Wyatt's
Who nice proportions stigmatized—Shah Allam's,
Preferring his ambitious hand to try at,
Which Science blushed to own, and seeing heaved a sigh at.

IX.

The Government House too—oh! I cry you mercy,
Grand tho' it be, surmounted by a dome
Of wood more like a petite pot renversé,
Than any simile I find at home,
Thy Course, including the cocked hat, to roam
And catch the healthful breezes as they blow
Fresh on your languid body. There are some
That sitting at their desks all day would grow
Component parts of chairs, did they this ride forego.

X.

Where Lords and Ladies, office clerks, and dandies,
Old weather beaten Captains and shop-keepers,
Pilots and sellers of fresh sugar candles,
And senior Merchants blinking thro' their peepers.
And burra bibbies, widows in their weepers,
And lovely spinster scarcely past their teens
Are rolling past—all salutation reapers,
Their noddles moving in the shifting scene,
Like those odd China playthings—shaking Mandarines.

XI.

And then, brave Fort, that canst resist attack,
From satire and from foes encamped about you,
Thy matchless excellence cost many a luck,
And many a luck would have been felt without you,
For passing strength what Engineer could doubt you;
I speak the truth without the slightest flattery,
Altho' you often flatter with the rout you
Make in saluting greatness from your battery,
Causing more rumpus than than the Pooja of Rnt Jattri.

XII.

And can I—tho, I've once before remarked,
Upon thy beauties, lovely Respondentia,
Unnoticed pass thee—where I first debarked,
From my poor native land to gather pence here,
Oh! if I did I should deserve thy censure,
And were thou not among the curiosities
Of India trumpeted by Lord Valentia,
In his prodigious tomes of spuriousities,
To those who have not read them certes a great loss it is.

XIII.

Town Hall, I would thy classic fame recite,
Thou massive pile—devoted to our dancing,
But that I recollect thee on the night
When first the trembling couples thought of prancing
Upon thy springy boards, their eyes oft glancing
On pillars which they thought would caper too,
And walls their agile motions countenancing,
As never yet such props were known to do—
But this was all a fudge, Town Hall, we know thee now.

XIV.

Inhabitants I call you to my aid,
Oh! motley and incomparable crew,
But be not of my sportive pen afraid,
I once was gay and frolicsome as you;
Come! haste away, your various sports pursue,
Come! show us all your prankings and avidity,
The atmosphere is sharp—the sky one blue—
The nerves are braced all tight with its frigidity,
No longer lax and musty with the Rain's humidity.

XV.

Oh I could swear that the Monsoon was changed,
So starched and stiff stand up the Dandy's collars,
Their kersemeers how nattyly arranged,
They're bidding at an Auction held at Tulloh's,
Against the Major for a colt of Rollo's;
Mark you the shabby fellow dressed in brown,
Whose hawk's eye all their motions keenly follows
A Tipstaff's stick I see with golden crown,
To take them up—just as the favorite Colt's knocked down.

XVI.

People of business briskly manage matters,
When the Thermometer is known to fall,
A man of idleness, au contraire, chatters,
Of conversations or a ball,

Or concert advertised at the Town Hall,
Or races to be run the following morning,
Where crowds of gay spectators fill the stall,
To shew themselves and exquisite adorning,
The heavy fogs and vapory exhalations scorning.

XVII.

The managing Mamas of handsome daughters,
Employ themselves in looking out for matches,
While they, poor girls, are thinking of the slaughter
They'd make, if grace or fascination catches,
Or there is taste 'mong matrimonial wretches,
Except "the eligibles"—these are—Judges,
Collectors, Colonels, Majors,—the list stretches.
Even to the point—how it—scorn and grudges;
All this is politic—yet nothing but a fudge is.

XVIII.

Yet not so all our Sinisters—not so all
The fair ones of this land; we own the sweets,
Of modest virtue which might well enthrall
The manifest bosom that affection greets,
Retiring grace that ardent blushing meets,
And soul endued with intellectual powers,
To perfect female-worth and so completes
The model of a wife—these are the dowers,
That sense demands to deck the matrimonial bowers.

XIX.

And if by chance, which may most innocently,
Occur, a fair one should partake your gig,
And tho' for greedy scandal may the scent lie,
Tho' you may be a quiz or awkward prig,
The news would fly abroad—and fate bebig,
That you're to wed the sweet Miss Thingumbob,
It reaches both—you, staring, stroke your wig,
She frowns—then blushes—finds her bosom throb,
You're flattered—pleased—and matters end in hob and nob.

XX.

And there are Baboons rich and fat and greasy,
Who prow around the Cranny barracks ever,
With bags full of Rupees to tempt and please ye,
And lean Sirkars "in master's business clever,"
That is, who fool and money try to sever,
And bonds usurious—compound interest,
And promises to Relatives whenever
In some good situation you are placed,
To let them have the plundering of the pigeon's nest.

XXI.

And they will plunder like the very devil,
From right, to left in spite of Regulation,
Nor cease till it becomes too great an evil
To suffer, and yet keep up reputation,
Then, if the master struggles with vexation,
He's bullied with a score of Lawyers' Letters,
Threatened with writs—per chance incarceration,
Tho' he sells all his Horses, Gigs and Setters,
He cannot always clear himself from such base fetters.

XXII.

Reader, adieu!—when next I court thy eye,
Th' amusements of the City I'll recite,
For which, alas! I daily pine and sigh,
Lamenting I'm a poor Mofussilite,
Nailed to a station which gives no delight,
Would I could get a sick certificate,
I'd hasten down and renovate my sight,
With all Calcutta's charms—but hapless fate,
Denies the hope and keeps me here to vegetate.

Upper Provinces, August 20, 1822.

CURRENT VALUE OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Remittable,.....	19 0 a 10 4
Non-Remittable,.....	11 4 a 11 8

PRICE OF BULLION.

Spanish Dollars,	Sicca Rupees 205 0 a 206 0 per 100
Dubloons,	30 6 a 31 8 each
Joes, or Pezas,	17 8 a 17 12 each
Dutch Ducats,	4 4 a 4 12 each
Louis D'Ors,	8 4 a 8 8 each
Silver & Franc pieces,	190 4 a 190 8 per 100
Star Pagodas,	3 6½ a 3 7 6 each
Sovereigns,	9 8 a 10 0
Bank of England Notes,	9 8 a 10 0

